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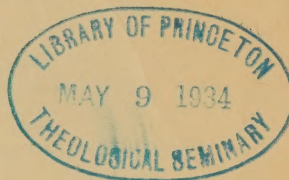


LET US WORSHIP GOD



# LET US WORSHIP GOD

A BOOK OF PRAYERS FOR  
DIVINE SERVICE



PREPARED BY

HUBERT L. SIMPSON

Minister of Westminster Church, London

*Dimidium studii qui rite precatur habet*

NEW YORK : DOUBLEDAY, DORAN & CO. INC.  
LONDON : JAMES CLARKE & CO. LIMITED

# LET US WORSHIP GOD

A BOOK OF PRAYERS FOR  
DIVINE SERVICE

BY

HUBERT L. SIMON

Author of "The Liturgy of the Hours"

Translated by the Rev. James G. Thompson

NEW YORK: DOUBLEDAY, DORAN & CO., INC.  
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## PREFACE

THE arrangement of this book has been planned with a view to making it more convenient for use in public than such manuals generally are. One or two features have been added, not found in other Service Books, which seek to express the growing desire for modes of approach to Almighty God and communion with His Church in heaven and on earth, too long neglected in much of our public worship.

Rubrics have not been prepared, except in the case of one or two less familiar orders of service, as these are already provided by most Churches for the guidance of their congregations, and are familiar and endeared through long usage. It is hoped that the prayers in this book may be useful in conjunction with these.

The book owes much in its preparation to the kindness of Dr. Boyd Scott, of Glasgow, who has also generously enriched it with many acts of devotion.



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# Order of Service

## MORNING

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

PRAISE

Prayer : Confession and Supplication

Old Testament Lesson

PRAISE

New Testament Lesson

(Children's Address)

PRAISE (Children's Hymn)

Prayer : Thanksgiving, Intercession, and the Lord's  
Prayer

PRAISE

The Offering

Prayer at the Offering

Intimations

Prayer before Sermon

The Sermon

Ascription and Prayer after Sermon

PRAISE

The Benediction

# Order of Service

## MORNING

Introit (unannounced)

Call to Worship (Congregation standing), concluding with :

*Minister* : “ O Lord, open Thou our lips.”

*People* : “ And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise.”

Prayer (Invocation)

PRAISE

Prayer (Adoration, Thanksgiving, Petition)

PRAISE

Old Testament Scripture

New Testament Scripture

PRAISE

Prayer (Confession, Intercession, concluding with the  
Lord's Prayer)

Intimations and Offering

Offertory Prayer

PRAISE

The Sermon

Collects

PRAISE

The Blessing



# Order of Service

## EVENING

PRAISE

Prayer

The Lesson

PRAISE : The Anthem (*the Minister may say*, "The Choir will now sing, to the Glory of God, the Anthem, which is . . .")

Prayer, *concluding with* The Lord's Prayer

PRAISE

The Offering

Prayer at the Offering

Intimations

Prayer before Sermon

The Sermon

Prayer after Sermon

PRAISE

The Benediction

---

Should a Vesper be sung, the Order may conclude as follows:  
Prayer after Sermon

PRAISE

Short Prayer, *concluding with*

The Benediction : *On the words* "Be with us all evermore" *being said, the Choir sings:*

The Vesper

# Order of Service

## EVENING

Scripture Sentences

Prayer of Invocation (concluding with the *Gloria Patri*)

PRAISE

Old Testament Scripture

New Testament Scripture

PRAISE

Prayer (concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

Intimations and Offering

Offertory Prayer

PRAISE

The Sermon

Collects

PRAISE

The Blessing

Vesper and Silent Prayer

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### *Morning*

**GOD** is greatly to be feared in the assembly of His saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him. And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He heareth us.

Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. Acquaint yourselves with God, and be at peace. Thoughts of peace, saith the Lord, do I think towards you. Ye shall find Me when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.

Serve the Lord with gladness ; come before His presence with a song. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, to show forth His lovingkindness in the morning, and His faithfulness every night.

Seek the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts ; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. The path of the just is as the light of the dawn that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Whom have we in heaven but God, and what are all on the earth without Him ? Our flesh and our hearts fail, but God is the strength of our hearts and our portion for ever. Though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly. We will lift up our hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.

Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Call to Worship

## *Evening*

Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, who by night stand in the house of the Lord. The day goeth away, and the shadows of the evening are stretched out : but it shall come to pass that at evening time there shall be light. Let our prayer be set forth as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.

Abide with us : for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And He went in to tarry with them. And He said unto them, Why are ye troubled ? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts ? And when He had thus spoken He showed them His hands and His side.

Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening. It shall come to pass, that at evening time there shall be light. This is the message which we have heard from Him, and announce unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

The day declineth, the shadows of the evening are stretched out. When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather : for the sky is red. Ye know how to discern the face of the sky ; but can ye not discern the signs of the times ? The time is short. Use the world as not using it to the full : for the fashion of this world passeth away.

And when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick brought them unto Him ; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them. They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick : I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.



## Call to Worship

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. And he lighted the lamps before the Lord ; and he burnt sweet incense on the golden altar. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people sought to destroy Him : and they could not find what they might do ; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

O Thou Who didst come into the world to be its light, and Who still art daily teaching us in all the experiences of life : as the malice of Thine enemies was frustrated by the eager attention of those who were determined to hear Thy Word, grant unto us, we beseech Thee, a like determination, that by our faithful waiting upon Thee in Thy temple we may defeat the malice and thwart the evil designs of those powers that would destroy Thy gracious influence in the world.

# Sunday Prayers

## PRAYERS OF INVOCATION

Many there be that say, Who will show us any good ? Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us.

Eternal God, most loving Father, Who graciously desirest the worship of them that seek Thee in truth : send forth, we beseech Thee, Thy light and Thy truth, that they may lead us and bring us to the place of Thy Presence, that beholding Thy glory we may worthily magnify Thy great and holy Name.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost ; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Leaving the things that are too high for us, in quietness and in confidence may we find our strength. Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, unto us who know that we are weak, and who trust in Thee because we know that Thou art strong, the gladsome help of Thy lovingkindness, both here in time and hereafter in eternity.

O God, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give ; that both our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness ; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

O loving Father, Who by Thine oath hast promised unto us a Saviour, Jesus Christ, Thy Son ; Thou hast not deceived us, but hast given Him unto us, as Thy Word has declared, and by Thy Sacraments Thou hast confirmed. Yea, He hath further promised unto us, that He will abide with us until the consummation of the world. Therefore, dear Father, we beseech Thee that Thou wilt bless us in all our turns, govern us, and replenish us with joy ; let Thy crown and kingdom abide above us, and preserve us in peace, through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son.

## Sunday Prayers

O Lord God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, open our eyes that we may behold Thy Fatherly Presence ever about us. And in this time of worship and of communion with Thee, in this Thy house, set open unto us the gate of that invisible realm wherein truth and goodness and beauty abide in perfection. Draw our hearts to Thee with the power of Thy love. Lift up our thoughts to Thee as Thou art in glory, and do Thou condescend to us in compassion and blessing ; and make us to know that all things are ours through Thy Son, our Redeemer.

O Eternal God, by Whom the whole Body of Christ is sustained and governed, we thank Thee that Thou hast called us to worship Thee in Thy holy Church. Grant to us each day to feel more deeply the privileges of Christian fellowship. Bless to us all the services of public worship, and in our present waiting upon Thee in this Thy house. Reveal Thyself to us, according to Thy promises, in the appointed means of grace. Give a rich increase to each seed of good sown in our hearts ; and by Thy almighty power keep us steadfast in the faith once delivered to the saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, the Source of all things that have any being, Who, as on this day, didst rest from Thy work of creation, we would so hallow its hours that, even in the labour and uncertainty of this time of our earthly pilgrimage, we may have a foretaste of the rest that remaineth to Thy people in glory. O Lord Jesus Christ, Who as on this day didst break the bonds of death and the grave, grant us Thy grace that we may arise from all depths of sin unto newness of life. O Holy Spirit, Who, as on this day, didst descend on the Church at Pentecost, come upon us with Thy heavenly gifts and cleanse, illumine, and sanctify Thy people. Glory be to Thee, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Confession and Supplication*

**Our God and Father**, we bless Thee for this quiet place in the midst of the great city, for the sweet hymn of praise, for the altar of the cross where we now bend in lowliest prostration, in most hopeful affection. Let our coming together be for the profit of our souls, that being enriched with religious thought, and ennobled by Christian aspiration, and comforted by heavenly solace, we may do all the work of life with a firmer hand, with a completer patience, with a nobler heroism. Undertake for us in all things ; we would be servants of Thine, and in no wise masters, receiving Thy will, in a measure understanding it, and gladly attempting in Thine own power to carry it out in all its gracious meaning.

Alas, that we can but see through a glass darkly, and but faintly feel the impulses of Thy good Spirit. The windows of the soul are dim with the hot breath of passion and darkened with the cobwebs of care. In foolish thought and false affection, in anger and suspicion, in envy, harsh judgments, and evil-speaking, in uncharitable thoughts and unworthy motives we have fretted and frayed the pure intention of the soul. But Thou art the fountain of all blessedness, the everlasting spring of goodness, the unfailing source of all righteousness. Let Thy mercy lighten upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Lead us and bring us unto the hill of God and to Thy holy place, that in the days to come others may see in us somewhat of the great glory, and through us something of the divine grace.

If we say we have no sin, ourselves alone we deceive ; not those who know us, much less the God who made us. Thou art He who overturns the things that must be overturned, and are ever setting up that which cannot be removed. In deep contrition low we bow. As children bring their soiled hands to be washed, so do we bring our soiled hearts. See how black they are ! Father, forgive, and cleanse.

We do not ask, O God, for any sudden rending of the veil of clay, for rush of ecstasy, or transport of emotion ; but we do

## Sunday Prayers

ask that we may not miss the joy upon the wing, nor be deaf when the trumpets of Thy host are passing by. Long time hast Thou been with us ; should we not know Thy secret sign ? Thou hast solicited us in the eyes of a child, and pled with us in a night of stars, and whispered to us in memories of other days. Down the passage of the years we have heard the footfall of Thy faithful love. Thy Christ has ever gone before us, and Thy goodness and mercy never failed to be our rearward. God of the lasting love and the pitying heart, forgive our cruel forgetfulness. O my soul, remember and adore.

Father, we cannot pray. Our fumbling fingers miss the latch that lets the golden door reveal the glories that abound. Our asking is so half-hearted, our seeking so soon given over, and how canst Thou hear our timid knock amid the sound of jubilant harps ? But before we call Thou hast heard, and whilst we are yet speaking Thou art here. What means this stillness, this holy awe, this fire that spreads from heart to heart, save that Thou hast come—our need Thy summons, our desire Thy call ?

May prayer be to us more and more the knowledge of Thy will and the waiting upon Thy behests and the fellowship of Thy love. From all impatient clamour and fruitless pleadings set us free. We send out our swift ships of desire only to have them lost in perilous seas forlorn. We would wait the coming of Thy viewless wind, the impulse of Thy perfect word. May we rise from our prayer with half the answer in a surer hold upon Thy hand. Lead us by Thy grace this day up the spiritual stairway of life to the heights where Thou art seen in Thy holiness, and felt in Thy grace, and known in Thy power. Give unto us a loving and a friendly manner of behaviour ; and to the joy of labour add a serene sense that it is not in vain. Grant unto Thy servants joy in all our deeds and days ; wisdom for the work ; peace for the pathway ; friends for the fireside, and love to the last.



# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Confession and Supplication*

☉ **GOD** most merciful, longsuffering and gracious, hear us in the multitude of Thy mercies as we make confession of our sins before Thee and beseech Thee to continue towards us Thy patience and grace. Thou art faithful and just to forgive the sins of those who confess them unto Thee for Christ Jesus' sake, even as now we do. Remember not the offences of our youth, O Lord, and cast not Thy servants away in displeasure.

From all hardness of heart and irreverence, from all uncharitableness, envy, and jealousy, from all pride and selfishness—O Lord, deliver us. From all indolence and sloth, from all self-indulgence and intemperance, from all impurity in thought, word, and deed—O Lord, deliver us. From all deceit and untruthfulness, from all unworthy ends, from all undue anxiety and distrust in Thee—O Lord, deliver us. From neglect of Thy Word and promises, from neglect of prayer, from forgetfulness of Thee—O Lord, deliver us. From all disloyalty in our allegiance to Thee Whom we have promised to serve to our life's end, from lukewarmness in our attendance upon the ordinances of Thy Church, from all meanness in giving to the treasury of Thy Kingdom—O Lord, deliver us. From the loss of the fervour that filled our hearts when we dedicated our life to Thee in the spring-time of our days—O Lord, deliver us.

O God, the Father, Who hast promised forgiveness to all who turn to Thee, pardon our sins and negligences. O God the Son, who knowest the frailty of our nature, strengthen our weakness. O God the Holy Ghost, who canst hallow all things by Thy power, renew us to Thy service.

Have mercy upon us, O God, after Thy great goodness, and guide us by Thy Holy Spirit. In all the perils and dangers of our daily life—guide us, O Lord. In times of happiness and joy, in times of sorrow and dejection, in our pleasures and in our cares—guide us, O Lord. In times of labour and study, in times of relaxation and repose, in our work and in our amusements

## Sunday Prayers

—guide us, O Lord. In the pursuit of noble aims, in the flight from known evil, in success and disappointment—guide us, O Lord. In the common intercourse of life, in the choice of companions, in the society of friends—guide us, O Lord. From all outward evils, from sickness, from suffering, from loss, if it be Thy will—O Lord, deliver us.

O Almighty and most merciful God, receive these our humble prayers. We are weak, but Thou art strong and gracious. Help us to struggle more successfully with the temptations by which we have been overcome. Confirm and strengthen in us the good habits which Thou hast enabled us to begin and carry out. Show us the light of Thy countenance and we shall be safe. Grant unto us those things which we have faithfully asked according to Thy will, and whatever else we need, for Thou knowest better than we do ourselves our every requirement both of body and soul. Continue to bless to us the repose and services of this Thy holy day. Teach us to look on each week as a stage in our homeward journey ; and ever draw us, O Lord, nearer to Thee in heart and soul, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, to whom with Thee the Father and the Holy Spirit be power and glory evermore.



# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Confession and Supplication*

☉ **Thou** who art the Shepherd of Israel, we are the people of Thy pasture and the sheep of Thy hand. All the days of our life we are encompassed by Thy care, and the rod and staff of Thy loving correction and sustaining grace are ever nigh us. In Christ Jesus Thou hast ordained that door of Thine enfolding love, by Whom if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. And yet we have so often gone aside from Him, and in our blindness and ingratitude have turned deaf ears to His voice. We have known Thy will but have hardened our heart against Thy guidance. We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done ; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done ; and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore Thou them that are penitent ; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy Holy Name. O Lord, hear us ; O Lord, pardon us ; O Lord, strengthen us ; for His sake Who was born and died and rose again for us, even Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Hear us, O Lord God, and be merciful unto us for Thy Name's sake. Thou knowest our wants ; teach us to feel them. Thou knowest our weakness ; teach us to look to Thee for strength. Thou art our succour ; make haste to help us. Show Thou us the way in which we should walk, for unto Thee do we lift up our souls. O Eternal God, who hast taught us by Thy Holy Word that our bodies are temples of Thy Spirit, keep us, we most humbly beseech Thee, temperate and holy in thought, word, and deed, that at the last we, with all the pure in heart, may see Thee, and be made like unto Thee in Thy

## Sunday Prayers

heavenly Kingdom. We beseech Thee to increase within us the spirit of honest and dutiful toil, and to hallow all our work by Thy Holy Spirit. May we earn by our faithful industry what we receive of this world's goods, else we condemn ourselves as robbers of Thy providence ; and consecrate us as stewards of all we possess. We beseech Thee to make us bold to confess Thee in our daily life ; to enable us to check evil and to support good, and to look to Thee in all the dangers and temptations by which we are beset. We beseech Thee to give us a true love for Thee and for Thy service ; to make us tender-hearted and pitiful ; to teach us to help all who are in distress, or necessity, or want ; to pardon and enlighten those who condemn us wrongfully or injure us ; to enlarge our sympathy for those who are farthest removed from us. Receive these our imperfect prayers, and grant us what we need for our souls and bodies, for time and for eternity, for Jesus Christ's sake, Thy Son our Saviour.

## MORNING

### *Confession and Supplication*

**M**ost gracious and condescending Saviour, at the very door of our heart Thou standest, saying, Behold, I stand at the door and knock ; arise, and open, and I will come in. We are not worthy that Thou shouldest come under our roof. There is so much within us that must offend Thine eyes—lingering relics of evil thoughts and profane imaginations, of mean and faithless cares, of smouldering envy and hatred, of sly resolves and unsanctified purposes in our daily business, of unkind and ungracious behaviours in our domestic life. To these we cling against our better judgment, and we have sought to hide them even from Thy sight. We have nourished them, though well we know that one look of Thine were enough to blast and wither them. There are recesses in our hearts, of which we are loth to yield to Thee the key. Grant unto us courage to deal faithfully with ourselves, and so lively a conscience that we shall leap to welcome Thee, though Thy coming bring us at the first shame and pain and confusion of face.

Of ourselves, O heavenly Guest, we cannot thus deliver ourselves of that which doth affront those pure eyes of Thine. Enter Thou in, O Lord, though it be with Thy scourge of cords, and cleanse us thoroughly. We know we can never have the peace and radiant cheerfulness which Thy presence brings, unless Thou possess us utterly. Behold, even now we open every innermost door without reserve to Thee. Enter, O Saviour, and fill with all Thy love, and grace, and power, these unworthy hearts of ours.

O Thou who hast revealed unto us the secret of all true blessedness, bestow upon us, we entreat Thee, the spirit that attains the same.

Grant unto us to be poor in spirit ; so to sit loosely to our earthly possessions that, should we be stripped of them, we may be ready to say, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away ; blessed be the name of the Lord. And forbid that we, in the hardness of our material lot, should envy those who live softly,

## Sunday Prayers

for Thou hast said, What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and forfeit his own soul ?

Grant unto us the blessedness of them that mourn ; may we sincerely and from our hearts lament the readiness with which we lapse from vows of amendment, and make us feel that the pains, sorrows and disorders of the world about us are griefs and burdens of our own kith and kin, the one Family of the one Father of us all.

Grant meekness unto us, O Lord, that we may grow in gentleness, courtesy, and forbearance when thwarted by others, and in a happy carelessness when overlooked or slighted by the proud.

Grant unto us to hunger and thirst after righteousness, with such a passion as a starving man feels hunger or a traveller lost in the desert is athirst.

Grant unto us the spirit of mercy, that we may spare those who, having put themselves wrong with us, are now within our power and may be wounded or struck down by us, and that we may be pitiful to all in trouble or pain.

Grant unto us purity of heart, and so fill our breast with the love of innocent and simple joys that all vicious and unclean usurpers of our souls may be expelled from our affections.

Grant unto us to love peace and to make it our aim, to show abroad the spirit of conciliation and to toil for it among men ; and to bear whatever contumely or persecution be our portion, as those who are partakers of the reproach of Christ. And this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Adoration, Thanksgiving and Supplication.*

**Almighty God**, most glorious in majesty, Who inhabitest Eternity, Whose name is holy : we adore and magnify Thy name. We rejoice that Thou dwellest also with them that are of a contrite and humble spirit ; and we entreat Thee to revive us, Thy servants, who humble ourselves before Thee with reverent and contrite hearts.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Thine unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all men, for all the blessings of this life and for the promise of everlasting felicity.

We praise Thee for our creation, preservation, and the manifestation of Thy love towards us day by day in this time of our earthly pilgrimage. And, as we are bound, we specially thank Thee for the mercies we have received from Thee during the past week. For health and strength, for outward prosperity and well-being, for the manifold enjoyments of our daily life, and the hopes of the future, we thank Thee, O God. For the opportunities of learning, for the discipline of sound instruction, for the exercise of the freedom of our wills, we thank Thee, O God.

Above all, we praise Thee, most gracious God, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. We thank Thee for the revelation of Thy will which Thou hast given us in Him, for the means of serving Thee in Thy Holy Church, and for the perpetual attendance and guidance of Thy Holy Spirit. We thank Thee, O God, for every blessing of soul and body ; and add this, O Lord, to Thine other mercies, that we may praise Thee, not with the words of our mouth only, but with our lives, consecrated anew this day in all things to Thine allegiance. Help us ever to look to Thee as the Author and Giver of all good things, and, giving up ourselves to Thy service, to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

## Sunday Prayers

Send unto us Thy Spirit to guide and teach us, that we may be made worthy of Thy heavenly Kingdom, and live even now as fellow-citizens of the Saints. O Thou Who by the wisdom of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Saviour, hast revealed to us the truth of blessedness, direct and govern us that we may possess the benedictions He uttered, saying : Blessed are the poor in spirit ; blessed are they that mourn ; blessed are the meek ; blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness ; blessed are the merciful ; blessed are the pure in heart ; blessed are the peacemakers ; blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake. O Lord, have mercy upon us, and rule our hearts that we may inherit these blessings. Deliver us from all fretfulness of spirit and worldly anxiety, and quench all faithless care within our breast, that as we seek first Thy Kingdom and righteousness we may never lose heart in whatever difficulties and hardships beset us, but trust in Thee, for Thou wilt never leave us destitute or comfortless. Answer our prayers, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness in Christ Jesus, to Whom with Thee, the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour, glory and praise, world without end.



# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Adoration, Thanksgiving and Supplication*

☉ **LORD GOD**, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee ; we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. Thou only art holy ; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father.

Almighty God, the source of every blessing, Who dost replenish us in all our need, though we so little merit Thy grace and bounty ; hear us, we entreat Thee, as we offer to Thee most humble and heartfelt thanks for all Thy goodness.

For holy Church and our place therein ; for seasons of worship and every means of grace ; for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments ; for the vision and attainments of Thy Kingdom in the earth, *we thank Thee, O our God.*

For the sanctities of home ; for the love of husband and wife, of parent and child, and all friendships that are hallowed by our fellowship in Jesus Christ ; for all the kindliness and charity that abound in the earth, *we thank Thee, O our God.*

For courage in time of danger, succour in time of temptation, for victory over evil, and fortitude to confess Thee in our daily life, *we thank Thee, O our God.*

For Thy leading of us through life and Thy guidance of us through death ; for the blessed departed, whose shining track abides to direct us whither they are gone, *we thank Thee, O our God.*

We thank Thee, O God, for the redeeming love of Christ, Thy Son, our Saviour ; for the presence within us of Thy Holy Spirit ; for the fulfilment of His promise that where two or three are met in His Name, He is in their midst ; for His avowal that even to the end of the world, in all ages, He is of our company, the spectator of our warfare, the captain of our salvation, the bread of our souls, the keeper of the door when we come to die, the receiver and bearer of our souls to heaven.

O God, Whose will is plainly known to us in Thy command-



## Sunday Prayers

ments, give us grace to keep the same. (1) Thou alone art God ; may we fear nothing so greatly as being disloyal to Thee and reverence nothing that bears not Thine approval and blessing. (2) Deliver us from all make-belief in worship, and from all piety that has a form of godliness but lacks the power thereof. (3) May Thy Name be hallowed by us in our speech and in all we do, as men and women who have been sealed by Thy Holy Name. Forbid that we should ever make a jest of sacred things, or seek to win applause among worldly people by speaking lightly of religion, or slightly of Thy Word, Thy Church and Kingdom. Help us to abide faithful to the precious ordinances of religion, and especially (4) to the keeping of the Lord's Day. Preserve it unto us as a happy day of rest and worship and of works of mercy, and deliver us from the sin of spoiling it for others. (5) In our dealings with our fellows, save us from all sullen, grudging or ungracious moods, and inspire us to show honour and respect to all to whom these are due, especially within our homes. (6) From all murderous thoughts, (7) from all unchaste engagements or desires, (8) from all dishonesty in business and every theiving impulse, cleanse and deliver us, good Lord. (9) From lying and the bearing of false witness against any, do Thou deliver us. Make us careful lest by what we say we injure another's good name, or by our silence allow a wrong impression of another to spread in the minds of men. (10) May we rejoice in the happiness of others, and without envy or jealousy, be glad in the gifts that are theirs, in the success granted them by Thee. And unto us who seek to employ in Thy service the talents bestowed upon us, give a contented heart, O Lord.

# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Adoration, Thanksgiving and Supplication*

**Eternal Lord**, God of our fathers, with Whom a thousand years are as one day, and who hast been our Refuge from one generation to another : mercifully remember us sinners who are of yesterday, strangers and sojourners on the earth, where Thy Son also tabernacled in the flesh ; and so receive us into Thy pardoning comfort and the strong keeping of Thy grace, that we come not into condemnation before Thee for any of our fears that are past ; but may be now, and in all ages, in Thy Son our Saviour ; for His sake Who with the Father, and the Spirit, one God, liveth and reigneth, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever.

It is Thou who drawest the veil of night upon the tired eyes of the day to renew its sight in a fresher gladness of awakening. Let us not force our flagging spirits into a poor preparation for Thy worship. We would be still and hear what God the Lord will speak. Blessed be Thy name, we find that Thy will knows no end in us. And when the old words die on the tongue, new melodies break forth from the heart ; and where the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with far-stretching distances. This is our prayer to Thee, our Lord. Strike at the root of penury in our heart. Give us the strength lightly to bear our joys and sorrows. Give us the strength to make our love fruitful in service. Give us the strength never to disown the weak things of this world or bend our knees before insolent might. Let Thy light so shine into our spirits, we beseech Thee, that we may really know Whose we are, and Whom we serve. Save us from all perils of a soul untenanted by great consecrations and holy loyalties, but rather let Thy love possess and enlarge us.

Our souls Thou hast made boundless, such is Thy good pleasure. This frail vessel Thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life. This little flute of a reed, bruised but unbroken, Thou hast carried over hill and valley, and hast breathed through it harmony eternally new. We

## Sunday Prayers

would make our life simple and straight, that Thy breath may enter unhindered and issue in music. When Thou callest us friend, and seekest for our fellowship, it seems that our poor hearts would break with pride, and we look to Thy face, and tears come to our eyes.

Lord of our life, we shall ever try to keep our bodies pure, knowing that Thy living touch is upon all our limbs. We would ever try to keep all untruths out from our thoughts, knowing that Thou art that Truth which has kindled the light of reason in our minds. We praise Thee that Thou art not alone to be found in chanting and singing and making of prayers. Thou art not to be worshipped in the lonely dark corner of the temple with doors all shut. The Son of Man is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the maker of roads is breaking stones. He is with them in sun and shower, and His garment is covered with dust. We, too, would stand out there in toil and sweat of the brow.

Many are our desires and our cry is pitiful, but ever didst Thou save us by hard refusals ; and this strong mercy has been wrought into our lives through and through. We have had our invitation to this world's festival, and thus our life has been enriched and blessed. Our eyes have seen, and our ears have heard. But we have missed something because there is something that we have withheld. We would draw out now and bear to the Governor of the feast. Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high ; where knowledge is free ; where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls ; where words come out from the depths of truth ; where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection ; where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit ; where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action—into that heaven of freedom, our Father, let our souls awake.

# Sunday Prayers



## MORNING

### *Adoration, Thanksgiving and Supplication.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy,** Lord God of hosts : heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

Most gracious and bountiful God, Author of every good, we praise Thee with grateful hearts for all the gifts and tokens of Thy providence.

We thank Thee for this holy day of worship and rest, and for this Thy House builded to the glory of Thy Name.

We praise Thee for the homes from whence we came, with all their happiness and love. And if sorrow, distress, or loneliness have visited them, we know that Thou wilt so bless and encourage us here, that we shall go back with new strength and grace to face our troubles, with greater patience to bear our woes, and with a fuller spirit of forbearance and helpfulness. We praise Thee that by Christ Jesus, Thy Son, Thou hast made of our homes temples of Thy presence and loving discipline, and of our church a home wherein we meet as brethren restored to Thee, our Father, and in peace and joy with one another, as Thy children.

Furthermore, we give Thee thanks that through Christ our eyes are enlightened to behold, with lovelier vision, the beauty of Thy presence and power in Nature, and to learn Thy law of faith and dependence on Thee even in earth's dumb and most transient creatures.

For Christ, the Saviour of our souls, the Wisdom of our way through life, the Sharer of our sorrows, and the Sanctifier of our joys, we give Thee chiefest praise. And we thank Thee for every humble, brave, and saintly life of men and women about our path, that burns with the fire of kindliness and loving service which His spirit has lighted within them, and for the enrichment of the world by all in art and music and letters that Thy Son has inspired among us. For the meaning He has imparted to life ; for the glory He has shed around death, we praise Thee, O God most merciful, with our whole heart and soul.

## Sunday Prayers

O Thou, Whose pleading with Thy churches was heard of the Apostle John in Patmos, deliver us from all that displeased Thee there, and bestow on us the warning and encouragement Thou didst address to them.

Give us grace patiently to endure all hardship, and suffer not any distress to weaken our loyalty to Thee or to make us bitter and unloving towards our brethren. Sustain us in poverty and disappointment, and amid all enmities and slanders, and protect us against false doctrines and every temptation to yield to evil habits of the flesh and any idolatry.

Grant us grace to abide steadfast in our calling as Thy redeemed children, to adhere to Thy Name, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. May we walk blameless among men as in white and unsullied robes. In all trials that already beset us or that come upon us keep us true to our faith in Thee, and let us not fall away from Thee, or Thy Spirit die within us.

Save us from that deadly contentment with which riches and prosperity endanger our souls, and quicken us from all lukewarmness in our devotion to Thee and in our testifying, lest that dread judgment fall on us which Thou didst utter concerning them that were neither hot nor cold. Give us an understanding of Thy chastening of us and a faithful acceptance of Thy discipline, for as many as Thou lovest Thou dost reprove and chasten.

Evermore Thou standest at the door of our heart with the voice and invitation of Thy love. Now, as ever, would we open our hearts to Thee. Enter therein, O Lord, and nourish us by Thy grace, that we may be renewed in strength to overcome the world and to be sharers in Thy victory and the glory of Thy Kingdom.



# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Thanksgiving and Intercession*

© **Lord of our lives**, Lover of our souls, give us, we pray Thee, true access to Thee when in outward form we pray. May the Word of the Lord, even when it filters through a man's words, have free course and be glorified among us. Thou seest how much of what is good in us may be weakened and worn by another week of work which has often proved unfriendly to the life of the spirit within us. Draw us now and we will run after Thee. Open Thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Thou knowest the tasks that Thou hast laid upon us, the burdens which we each by Thine appointment carry, and the heavier ones that we have loaded on ourselves by going against Thy appointment and commandments. Magnify Thy grace by pulling us out of the pit on this Sabbath day, O Thou Good Shepherd; and lead us away to the green pastures and the quiet watering. Forbid that any outward form of worship should come between us and Thee; but rather through the lattice of ordinances may we behold this day the far-stretching lands.

We thank Thee for all the beautiful vicissitudes of Thy care; that the pillar of cloud glows ever with a heart of fire when the night falls. O Thou to Whom the darkness and the light are both alike, but different sides of Thy love, may neither of these ministers of Thine fail in their mission. May we be led to Thee by joy and sorrow alike, Who hast made both summer and winter, and the outgoings of the evening as of the morning to rejoice.

O Lord, we cannot even speak with Thee in prayer without a painful consciousness of how unlike Thee much of our daily life is. But we beseech Thee that we may never lower our desires to the level of our actions, but may lift our lives to the height of our prayers. We thank Thee for that yearning for a deeper peace which will never let us be. May we ever remain lured by its mystery, pained by its desire.

We praise Thy Name that ever Thou dost save us from

## Sunday Prayers

turning prayer into selfish longing by calling us to our high office of priestly intercession. O Lord Christ, Son of the Father, Son of Mary, Lamb of God, Who wast made flesh to take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us ; Thou Who didst not abhor our low estate, receive our prayers ; Thou Who hast set our manhood upon the throne, grant us Thy peace.

Let Thy beauty be upon our home life. Make it truthful and tender. O Lord, give Thy blessing to the homes of our land, that there may be quiet in our midst and no complaining in our streets. May the little ones hear Thy voice. May the young and strong answer Thy call. May the old lean on Thy care and the stricken find rest in Thy love. And may we all feel that we have one Father above, one Elder Brother near, and one eternal home for which to look.

O God, have compassion on all who have wandered from the way of life, and bring them back to the fellowship of Thy love. We pray for all for whom we have made it harder to believe in God and goodness and pure religion. Bring us all in sorrow and tenderness to Calvary, to renew our league of love with Christ, and to seek the good of His people. Let the light of Thy truth arise upon every land, and shine into every heart.

For our sick ones we intercede, that they may find healing as well as darkness in the shadow of Thy hand. For all in their baptism of fire, that Thy strong hand may uphold and steady them. For those whose sun seems to have gone down while it is yet day. For such as have lost the kindly light of reason or have fallen into despair ; for any passing through worldly adversity, and whose hearts are bitter ; for such as have secret trials, and for whom the help of man is vain ; for every home where there are empty places and emptier hearts. Especially for those whose names we present before Thee now in the fellowship of silence . . . ; that Thou wouldest vouchsafe unto Thy servants present help and a speedy and merciful deliverance from all their distresses.

Most loving Father, Who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of Thee, and to cast all our care upon Thee Who carest for us : keep us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of the love which is immortal, manifested to us in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Thanksgiving and Intercession*

☉ **God, our Father,** Who of Thy bounty satisfiest the wants of every living thing, help us to render to Thee now our dutiful offering of gratitude and praise for all Thy grace and loving-kindness.

We praise Thee for the revelation of Thyself in nature, and in the history of our race, and in the endowment of those Thy children throughout the ages by whom increasing visions of truth, goodness, and beauty have been detected and disclosed among us. We praise Thee for all those who by the devotion of their souls and bodies unto Thy will and purpose in the earth have dispelled ignorance, wrought righteousness, led forth their fellows into liberty, and oftentimes sealed their labours with their blood.

Above all things we glorify Thee, O God our Saviour, for the mighty deeds of Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who came forth from Thee and dwelt among us in mortal flesh, being made one with us in our frailty and taking all our sin upon Himself. Blessed for ever be Thy Name for the redemption wrought through Him for us and all men, for the victory of His death, the glory of His resurrection, and the power that aboundeth therein unto eternal life for all who give themselves to Him.

We praise Thee for the joy of His fellowship that refineth and enricheth all the innocent and wholesome joys of this earthly life ; and for that wondrous power within us of His Spirit, whereby of our trials an heroic patience is born within us, and in our temptations we awake to a strength before which Satan flees away, and in our sorrows we are given a vision of eternity in which the tragedy of death itself becomes a triumph. For all Thy mercy, O God our Saviour, the splendour of Thy works, the condescension of Thy grace, and the gift of life eternal, blessed be Thy Name in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Most loving Father, Who hast given Thy Church to witness to Thy Gospel everywhere, and to be a light to lighten the dark places of the earth, bless we beseech Thee Thine Apostolic and

## Sunday Prayers

Catholic Church throughout the world. Direct her ministers, missionaries and students, all her faithful people and those who have devoted themselves to particular services therein. Grant unto them and us grace to know and to do Thy will, and to be zealous in prayer and unselfish labour for the advancement of Thy Kingdom in this and in every realm. We beseech Thee to bless our native land, the King and all the members of his family, the King's counsellors, all magistrates, and those who lead their fellow-citizens in every noble and honest enterprise.

O God, who art ready to endue those that are heavy in spirit with praise, and to anoint with joy all who mourn, relieve, succour, and enlighten these our brethren for whose necessities we intercede, and grant them a happy and speedy deliverance from their sorrows and afflictions. We pray for all who are in bondage to sin, that by Christ they may break their chains ; and for all who are hindered from following Thee by pride of heart, by love of pleasure, ease, or display, by worldly desires or ambitions, by false views of Thy truth and evangel, or by fear of man. We intercede for those who are in secret thrall to evil habits, for those who are falling into doubt of Thy providence or losing heart in the struggle of life, and for all who have surrendered themselves to sloth, indifference, despair. Almighty God, Whose ear is ever open to the cry of Thy children, answer us, we entreat Thee, in these our intercessions, for the sake of Him in whose words we further pray, *Our Father*.

# Sunday Prayers

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## MORNING

### *Thanksgiving and Intercession.*

☉ **Thou**, Who even from everlasting to everlasting art God the Father Almighty, we bless and magnify Thy Holy Name for Thy mercy and providence unto Thy children upon the earth. Thou dwellest in light inaccessible and full of glory ; and yet in the homeliest things of this world in which we are set by Thee, we behold Thee near, the radiance of Thy glory in the light of the sun, the calm of Thy majesty in the night, Thine infinite care in the flowers of the field, Thy heavenly Spirit in the inspirations of the mind of man.

We bless Thee for Thy care of us, for all temporal provisions bestowed upon us in our earthly need, for the sanctity and felicity of our homes, for all happy friendships, for the privilege of work and the gift of daily bread, for the treasury of wisdom and beauty with which our traditions are stored, and for all visions of goodness and noble conduct Thou hast enabled our race to attain.

For the sum of all Thy providence and love in Jesus Christ, Thy Son, we praise Thee, O our God. For His redeeming and enlightening pilgrimage among us, the saving and healing achievement of His death, His victory over sin and the grave, whereby eternal life is offered unto all, and for His perpetual indwelling within Thy Church, we seek to praise Thee duly with ever grateful hearts.

And we bless Thee, most loving Father, for all comfort bestowed upon us in times of sorrow and bereavement, for the grace by which we have been strengthened to overcome temptation, for the confidence we have that Thou art with us in all our loneliness and perplexities, and for the assured hope that when this time of our earthly endeavour and warfare is past, there remaineth a rest to Thy people in that unclouded communion with Thee in glory where there is joy for evermore.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men ; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations.

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More especially we pray for the good estate of the Catholic Church ; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

Grant peace in our time, O Lord, and so direct all nations by Thy Word and Spirit, that they, with their rulers and councillors, may serve Thee, who art the King of kings, and in everything seek the glory of Thy Kingdom. Bless especially our own King and commonwealth, that all affairs may be so ordered and settled that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations.

Finally we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate, especially those whom we name in our hearts before Thee . . . ; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

These, and all other necessities, for them, for us, and Thy whole Church, we humbly beg in the Name and Mediation of Jesus Christ our most blessed Lord and Saviour ; in whose words we further pray, *Our Father*.

# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Thanksgiving and Intercession*

○ **GOD**, Whose providence is unfailing and Thy love most bountiful, we uplift to Thee our hearts in gratitude and praise. Bestow upon us Thy Holy Spirit that we may bless Thee for Thy kindness and faithfulness with a gladsome mind both now and evermore.

For the majesty and beauty of Thy creation of the heavenly spheres and of this earth, we praise Thy Name. For the revelation of Thy mind and loving purposes in Nature, the wonder of Thy designs therein, the marvels of the response in the soul of man to Thy perfect Spirit of truth and goodness and beauty, we praise Thee, O Lord God.

For Thy patient leading of our race upwards and onwards from most barbarous conditions of being and ways of life, and, in especial, for that chiefest apprehension of Thy holy law and will which Thou didst awaken in Thy people of the Hebrews, we praise Thy glorious Name.

For the consummation of that revelation in Him who issued from the stem of David, by the power of the Holy Spirit ; and for the fulfilment in Him of the spiritual travail of all the peoples, we praise Thee, O Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the salvation of mankind, wrought in Him; for His triumphant death and mighty resurrection; for His redeeming presence and labour in all the world still; for the unfailing inspiration of His Word, the glory and toils of His Church, the grace and nourishments of His Sacraments, the holy splendour of His saints, and for His promise of the coming fulfilment of Thy Kingdom, we praise Thee, most holy and loving Father of mankind.

For these ineffable blessings and for all Thy care of us in bodily welfare and material boons ; for Thy sustenance of us by Thy most precious promises and Thine all-sufficient grace, when we suffer pains and hardships, or are deprived of the tangible blessings which we consider should be our portion, we praise Thee, O Thou faithful Keeper of Thy people. Glory



## Sunday Prayers

be to Thee for all Thy lovingkindness unto us and to all Thy children.

And now, most gracious God, encourage us in our prayers, that we may faithfully entreat Thee on behalf of those whom we ought to remember at Thy throne of grace.

We pray for Thy Church throughout the world, that Thou wouldst purify, enlighten and prosper her, and so bless all in her ministry and service that they may loyally fulfil their duty, and labour with constancy and zeal in Thy work.

We pray for all peoples that sit in darkness, and for those who seek to enlighten them by the Gospel of Him that is the Light of the World. Bless them in their several missions and may they whom they teach come speedily to know Thy love in Him, and be made partakers in Thy glorious Kingdom.

We pray for all our brethren of this realm and nation ; for our King and his House ; for all in offices of authority and in places of trust and responsibility ; that Thou wouldest in full measure equip them with wisdom from on high, and inspire them in all things to do Thy will.

We pray for the trades and divers callings of Thy servants, that honesty, probity and the spirit of devout brotherhood may everywhere prevail, and that all jealousies and enmities within the commonwealth may vanish away.

We entreat Thee for all who suffer through the faults of man ; for all in bitter poverty, or who are holden of oppression or any tyranny ; for all who are bereft of hope ; for all who are stricken by disease ; and those who draw nigh to death ; for the many who live in godlessness and in forgetfulness of Thy counsels of salvation ; that in their several necessities or sins they may be directed by Thee to peace and, ere it be too late, to the shelter of Christ's Cross. And these our prayers we offer in the name of Him Who taught us thus to say, *Our Father*.

## MORNING

### *Confession and Intercession*

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O Lord God, Who art very nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and savest such as be of a contrite spirit : we humble ourselves in Thy sight and confess before Thee our weakness and our sin. We have lived as though we were sufficient for ourselves, and we have failed to be the men and women we desire to be. Thus have we declined from that life of perfect integrity, purity, and godliness which we behold in Christ ; and we have gone aside from the company of Him Who is ever ready to live out His very life in ours. Behold, O God, our folly, our heedlessness, and our ungracious disloyalty to Thee. We submit it all to Thee, and those particular fruits of our waywardness which are now so bitter to our conscience and put us to shame before Thee. If we say we are not responsible for our surrenders to the evil to which we have succumbed, we deceive ourselves ; for we know the truth, that none ever fell into sin that had not first withdrawn his hand from Thine.

This is our utmost sin, that we have not trusted Thee enough and sufficiently called upon Thee for Thine almighty grace. We do not often cry to Thee, with that passion and sincerity of prayer that wells forth to Thee with the very life-blood of our hearts ; therefore our purposes of good and vows of amendment wither away, and we even dare to complain that Thou hast failed us. Forgive us this great sin, O Lord our God, Who art still patient and longsuffering towards us with a love and grace so greatly unrequited and even unclaimed by us in our blindness and ingratitude. Speak Thy word of pardon in our hearts, and renew Thy covenant with us. Bring us into that blessed bondage of communion with Thee through Christ wherein is perfect freedom, and so possess us with Thy Spirit that our life, though it be embedded in this world, may blossom in virtue and bring forth fruit well-pleasing to Thee, to the glory of Thy Name and to the nourishment of Thy Kingdom.

And now, most gracious God, since Thou hast indeed re-



## Sunday Prayers

stored us by the absolution of our sins, we beseech Thine aid in the fulfilment of our priestly office of intercession.

We pray for the consummation of Thy glorious Kingdom in all the earth. To this end bless the work of Thy Church. Increase the spirit of understanding and concord among her various Communions. Remove everything that leads<sup>a</sup> to jealousy or suspicion between them. Quicken the longing in all hearts for a renewal of the fervour of the first Pentecost throughout the Church, so that Thy Word and Spirit may overflow abroad, and men of every tribe and tongue hear Thy wonderful works and be numbered among Thy redeemed.

Awaken, O God, the Christian nations that for long have known Thy law, and since ancient times have enthroned Christ above their kings and governments ; save them from hypocrisy and the fate of those that have a name that they live, but are dead. Restore this British people to the fulness of their loyalty to Him that gave them life by His blood and by many precious sacrifices and heroisms inspired by Him. Prosper our King in his noble leadership and service of the people. Give wisdom to all his ministers of state, and raise up men and women who fear Thee and reverence Thy law to rule us in our towns and parishes.

Bless the trade and commerce of Thy servants ; let all toil be ennobled as service done to Thee, and all who direct industry recognize themselves as stewards of Thy providence. Enlighten with Thy truth our schools and colleges. Inspire with the compassion and beneficence of Christ all institutions of healing and relief.

Give unto all that are in bodily pain, all in sorrow of heart and home, all whose minds are darkened or perplexed, and all who falter in the race of life, an undiminished faith in Thee, a suitable deliverance, and that spirit of waiting upon Thy will whereby they shall mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint. And these our prayers we offer in the name of Him Who taught us thus to say, *Our Father*.

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## MORNING

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Almighty God**, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly acknowledge our manifold sins and offences against Thee by thought and deed. We have neglected opportunities of good which Thou, in Thy love, gavest unto us. We have been overcome by temptations, from which Thou wast ready to guard us. We have looked unto men, and not unto Thee, in doing our daily work. We have thought too little of others, and too much of our own pleasure, in all our plans. We have lived in forgetfulness of the life to come. But Thou art ever merciful and gracious to those who turn to Thee. So we now come to Thee as those whom Thou wilt not cast out. Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon us. O Almighty God, heavenly Father, Who forgivest iniquity and transgression ; O Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, Who takest away the sin of the world ; O Holy Spirit, Who helpest the infirmities of those that pray : receive our humble confession. Give us true repentance and sincere faith in Thee. Do away our offences, and give us grace to live hereafter more worthily of our Christian calling, for the glory of Thy great name.

Almighty and ever-living God, Who by Thy Holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks for all men : we humbly beseech Thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord. And grant that all they that do confess Thy Holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy Holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech Thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes, and governors ; and especially Thy servant George our King, that under him we may be godly and quietly governed. And grant unto his whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the proper punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all ministers of religion,

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that they may both by their life and teaching set forth Thy true and quickening Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy Holy Sacraments. And to all Thy people give Thy heavenly grace, and, in particular, to this congregation ; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive Thy Holy Word, truly serving Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech Thee to comfort and succour all them, who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless Thy Holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear ; beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of Thy Heavenly Kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, Who hath taught us thus to say, *Our Father*.

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## MORNING

### *Confession and Intercession*

**MOST GRACIOUS GOD**, blessed be Thou, that in Christ Jesus we have seen the glory of Thy goodness and love, and know Thee to be the Everlasting Father and Saviour of all. All glory, laud and honour be to Thee, most merciful God, that Thy fatherly pity and longing go out unto every sinful soul, and that Thy salvation is ever nigh to the contrite heart. Look upon us therefore graciously, O God, as we Thy weak and wayward children answer the summons of Thy love and offer to Thee the sacrifice of our reverence and sorrow for sin.

We grieve that so often we wander from Thy ways and forget Thy laws, and that we stand in constant need of Thy forgiveness. We submit to Thee the secret sins of our hearts, the evil thoughts of our minds, the transgressions of our lips. For all wherein we have harboured unrighteous feelings or have done amiss toward Thee or our fellows, we do repent and entreat Thy forgiveness. Pardon, O God, those our surrenders to temptation for which we cannot even pretend to pardon ourselves, and those yieldings to overpowering evil which were too great for us only because we did not call upon Thee for help and strength.

Cleanse us from the undue love of pleasure or of gain, and save us from being conquered by outward things. Deliver us from all self-indulgence and from that self-sufficiency which isolates us from Thee and shuts us out from the communion of all simple and loving hearts. Merciful Father, Whose Life is Love, Whose Will is Right, we pray for strength to cease to do evil, to learn to do well ; for grace to keep clean and generous hearts and to live dutiful and blameless lives.

We pray Thee now so to purify us and to quicken within us faith, hope, and charity, that we be fitted to intercede with Thee for others in the priestly office that pertaineth to Thy Church.

We beseech Thee to bless the whole family of man, that the ends of the earth may see Thy salvation. Remember for good the household of faith throughout the world ; all who are

## Sunday Prayers

united with us in the communion of the same spirit by which we are disciples of Jesus Christ and Thy children. Multiply the number of Thine evangelists, and prosper the messengers of Thy Gospel abroad and at home.

We pray Thee to lead men everywhere in their cities and states to embody the spirit and power of Thy Kingdom in all their institutions and undertakings. Bless the King of this realm and prosper our country in all well-being ; give unto all the people wisdom, and so order every man's life and work, that these may be good and fair, serviceable and blessed before Thee.

God of infinite charity, Father of all spirits, we beseech Thee to protect and bless those near and dear to us, and to bring them to be numbered among Thy faithful children. Restore all wanderers to their homes, and recover those who are lost to truth and goodness of life. Provide for the needy, and arouse among all who fear and love Thee a true and active charity towards them. Console the fearful, and help the helpless. Be near to those who are in peril on land or sea or in the air. Strengthen the fainting heart ; comfort the sick and dying, and be Thou the Light of every darkened home. Give ear, O God, to this the voice of our confession and intercession for the sake of Him Who taught us, when we pray, *Our Father*.



# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *Confession and Intercession*

☉ **GOD**, the Creator of all things that have had birth, and the Parent of all things that have had a beginning, receive on that Thy throne of light that is inaccessible the devout prayers of Thy worshipping people, and amid the unwearied praises of cherubim and seraphim who stand around Thee, listen to the entreaties of our unwavering hope.

Father of the spirits of all flesh, Whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and Whose strength is perfected in our weakness, have mercy upon us, we beseech Thee, and graciously support us as we pray. Thou Who knowest the things that are in heaven and in earth, art acquainted with all the secrets of our hearts, and our sins are not hidden from Thy sight; yet Thou desisest not the prayer of the contrite nor hidest Thy face from the broken in heart. Look in mercy upon us who are burdened with the sense of our transgressions; look not in wrath upon us who feel not their weight; and release us from the thralldom of our sin.

Deliver us, we pray Thee, from the pride of knowledge and from the pride of ignorance, from blindness of mind and hardness of heart, from vain regrets and useless longings, and all that unknits the sinews of the soul and turns our thoughts inward upon ourselves rather than upward to Thy mercy-seat. O Thou Who has taught us that all things work together for good to them that love Thee, help us to trust ourselves to that eternal Will which works within our changeful life, to guide it everlastingly. And aid, O Lord, the upward strivings of Thy servants, that we be not henceforward swayed to the right hand or to the left, by those things which in times past have led us astray, and destroyed our peace.

O Heavenly Father, Whose blessed Son Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus His friend, grant us to be sharers of His great love for all mankind, that in the pain and anguish of the world we may be enabled rightly to intercede for them, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.



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For Thy servant the King we pray, that he may be granted strength for every burden and support in any anxiety. For all who serve the state and labour for the common weal, that Thou wouldest give Thine angels charge over them, good Lord, to keep them in all their ways. That all who are disciplined by long waiting and suspense may be given quietness and confidence.

O loving Heart of Jesus, which burns for the salvation of all men, have regard, we humbly beseech Thee, to the prayers and labour of Thy Church in all her missionary activities. Be gracious to all who are casting out devils in Thy name, whether they follow with us or not. Arm every fighter in a righteous cause and make strong their hearts. Remember not against them former sins and slightings of Thy love, and bring nigh to them also the satisfaction of Calvary for the sins of the whole world.

O Thou who makest cheerfulness the companion of strength, but apt to take wings in time of sorrow, we humbly beseech Thee that if, in Thy sovereign wisdom, Thou sendest weakness, yet for Thy mercy's sake deny us not the comfort of Thy grace. And since the fretfulness of our spirits is more hurtful than the weight of our burdens, grant us that heavenly calm which comes of owning Thy hand in all things, and patience in the trust that Thou doest all things well.

*Our Father.*

# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *General*

○ **God Most Holy**, Who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, how canst Thou look on us ? Accept us in the Beloved, and see us only as we stand in Him, clothed in the spotless robe of His righteousness. So shall we be delivered from our fears, and worship Thee with tranquil minds and steadfast wills.

Lord, it is good for us to be here—how good only they know who have longed and thirsted for Thee in a dry and parched land where no water is. O that we might behold Thy power and Thy glory as we have beheld them heretofore within Thy holy place ! So ashamed are we that ever we must come to the throne of grace by way of the altar of atonement. But if Thou wilt once again forgive us we hope to lead lives needing less forgiveness, lives that shall ring with victory, and be a praise and an honour and a glory unto Thee Who hast redeemed us and called us to Thy heavenly kingdom.

Lord, teach us to pray ; not with whine nor whimper ; not with vain repetition ; not with the frantic urgency which would seek to bend the Almighty Will to be the servant of our whim : but as they pray who know that prayer is rest in the smile of God, and shelter beneath the shadow of His wing.

We beseech Thee to remember Thy whole creation this day for good ; to fulfil all Thy purposes of love toward mankind ; to bless all peoples and tribes, together with their kings and rulers ; and to make Thy ways known, Thy saving health among all nations.

We beseech Thee to look favourably on our native land, our dominions and dependencies ; to bless our King and Queen, and the members of the Royal House ; to grant Thy divine help to those who direct the affairs of the Empire ; and so to purify all public life that as a people we may love justice, and hate iniquity, and walk humbly before Thee our God.

We beseech Thee to bless the city in which we dwell ; to let Thy fear rule in the deliberations of its magistrates and councillors ; to encourage all efforts made for the prevention of

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disease, for the amelioration of suffering, and for the promotion of the health and happiness of the community ; and to bless all good men and women who labour unselfishly for the public weal.

Almighty God, Who willest all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth, we beseech Thee for Thy Holy Church throughout all the world ; that Thou wouldest heal her divisions, and unite her children in the bonds of love and charity ; that Thou wouldest defend her from all worldliness and formality, from ungodly trust in riches, and from unspiritual aims and methods ; and that Thou wouldest give her an increasing trust in prayer and holiness.

Almighty God, Thou King of saints, Who art ever coming to judge the world in the events of history, give unto us, we humbly pray Thee, such a holy alacrity of spirit that we may never sleep upon our watch ; but, hearing Thy voice and seeing Thy face through the mists of time, may move to the posts of our several appointment, eager to do Thy will, and ready, when Thou shalt call us hence, to enter into the joy of our Lord.

O God, Who to all weary and perplexed souls hast revealed Thyself in Thy Son as the Way, the Truth, and the Life ; teach us, enlighten us, guide us ; and, as with humble hearts we seek Thee, grant that beyond all our faithless expectations and weak desires we may truly find Thee, and, being thus enriched, may continue in Thy loving favour unto our lives' end, through the mercy of our Saviour.

Glory be to the Father Who hath created us, and to the Son who hath redeemed us, and to the Spirit who hath sanctified us. Glory be to the supreme and undivided Trinity, one God, for ever.

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## MORNING

### *General*

**Lord God of Our Salvation**, help us this day to lay firm though reverent hands on the horns of the altar, and to cleave to Thee with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind. Shed abroad in our hearts, we humbly beseech Thee, according to our diverse necessities and present condition, the appropriate and punctual gifts of Thy grace. And when we say "Thy face, Lord, will we seek," hide not Thou Thy face from us. We fortify our souls by the remembrance of all Thy past blessings to us, thanking Thee for all the mercies that perish with the using, for the greater gifts that grow with use, and are never so great as to those who have most constantly and faithfully and deeply enjoyed them.

We have come once again, as our custom is, into the place of Thine appointment. May the associations of this sanctuary and of this hour be helpful to us all. May the world relax its hold upon us, and the things that are unseen and eternal assert their ancient right, their reality, their power. Vouchsafe unto us Thy presence in our worship this day. Sustain us with Thy right hand that we may follow hard after Thee. Give us, we pray Thee, the light of Thy gladness, and make us joyful with the joy of Thy chosen. We thank Thee that we are not left to grope and pick our way by the light of the little flares we fan to a momentary flicker, else would our light be but darkness made visible. Blessed be Thy name for the shining of the true Light, and that the uncomprehending darkness has not been able to quench it.

May our lives tell that we have been with Jesus, out among the deep things, and in among the sure things, and by pureness and knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by love unfeigned, by holy living, may we allure others to come with us to God. We thank Thee for Thy goodness in quiet, unlooked-for ways, and for the great unknown helps that come to seeking, struggling souls.

We thank Thee for sunrise and sunset, for fair skies and storms and clouds, for the rejoicing sun, the listening moon, and

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the silent stars. O Lord, how great are Thy works, and Thy thoughts are very deep. Help us to try to think them after Thee this day, O Thou who hast made us glad through Thy work.

We bless Thee that in Christ Jesus Thou hast shown us greater things still, a love that passeth knowledge. Make us all glad through Thy love. May we believe, not because others have told us with faces all aglow and rapture in their tones that they have found the Messiah, but because we have heard Him for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Draw near, as Thou hast promised to do, unto all bruised hearts, and manifest Thyself as the physician who has the bandage and the balm. Thou knowest that we have suffered many things from those to whom we have turned in our need and our distress, and are none the better, but rather worse. We pray Thee to heal our backsliding. And we beseech Thee that we may never waste even our sorrows, nor neglect to harvest the fruits of experience, nor to be insensible of their higher meaning. May none of us have afflictions that have done us no good, nor be smitten by rods that do not blossom.

Eternal Father, with Whom do live the spirits of the just made perfect, we would at this time render Thee humble and hearty thanks for all those known to us who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear, and who are now with Thee in great felicity, especially for those whose dear names we now call to mind . . . ; beseeching Thee that our fellowship may be with them every day through our risen Lord, and that we may be moved to follow in their footsteps, even as in their day and generation they served the Lord Christ.

And now, Heavenly Father, Who hast been pleased to spare us unto this day, and to allow us to offer unto Thee our common supplication, we beseech Thee to send us an answer according to Thy wisdom and the riches of Thy great liberality ; to make tender our hearts for the hearing of Thy holy Gospel, to give us grace to keep the same in our lives, and to preserve us through this day and unto the end of life in holy fellowship one with another, and in the comfort of Thy love. For all these mercies, and whatever else we need but have not asked, we beseech Thee through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose spirit as in Whose words we would ever pray, saying,  
*Our Father.*



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## MORNING

### *General*

**Father in Heaven,** Whose ear is ever open unto the cry of Thy children, we praise Thee for Thy bounty which Thou didst bestow on our fathers and dost continue to show to us their children to-day. We thank Thee for the continuity of testimony, one generation telling to another the story of all Thy faithfulness. Exalt our hearts in gratitude and tune our souls to worthy praise, that this our act of worship may be simple and sincere.

We thank Thee for the good things of this life, for food and raiment and shelter ; for work to do and zest in the doing of it. We thank Thee for the perpetual touch of the divine in life, for the image of Thyself in the soul of man ; for days bound each to each by natural piety ; for the vigour of youth, the wisdom of age, and for all the lessons of experience ; the steps by which we climb to higher things ; for the courage of the brave, the indignation of the righteous, the kindness of the thoughtful, and all that makes us men and keeps us Godlike. Make us anxious and ready to serve. Teach us, Lord, how to be fully and heartily in the world, yet not of it, its salt and not its slave ; how to keep ourselves most divinely allied to the infinite, and yet responsive to the cry of the present need. Teach us how to strive and battle for the highest things, yet without bitterness. May our zeal ever be with knowledge, and our judgments tempered with mercy.

Open our eyes anew in the anointing hours of worship to the hallowed nature of the place where Thou hast set us, to the glory of common life, to the excellency of our Carmels and Sharons. Behold, we know not what shall be the portion of quiet fidelity, or what shall be attained to by the steadfast soul, or what service they shall have rendered who have striven to be simply true, or what great thing of the Lord may not be hidden for us, often, if only the heart be kept pure to receive it.

O God, in faith would we cry, Thou art our God. Before we hear the call of work and of the world in another week, we



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would listen to Thee. Speak, Lord, Thy servants hear ; and in silent waiting upon Thee may we learn the secret of peace and strength. Give us the ability to think of Thee as we ought, and as Thy truth passes through our memory, make us clean through Thy word. Let the spirit of peace brood over us and over our stricken world. Do Thou remove everything that divides man from man, and our souls from Thee, our God. Heal the breaches that rend homes, that rend the nation, that have rent Thy Church, and still keep separate those who are one in Christ.

Our Heavenly Father, we bless Thee for everything good that Thou hast given us, and that makes life glad. We thank Thee for Thy tender care, for the ties of love and friendship, for our homes, for the times when we can gather together, and for the memories of other days, of which nothing can ever rob us, and of those who have come to their rest. We thank Thee that even by our sins and follies we can never wear out nor dishearten Thine amazing love. We thank Thee for the House of God where, in joy and sorrow, we have sought Thee ; for Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and for all holy influences that have helped to make us tender and to keep us true.

Look upon us all gathered here in Thy presence. Thou, O Lord, knowest our needs, our characters, the motives which have brought us here, the spirit in which we have come, the expectations we have cherished. If these are unworthy, forgive them ; if they be good, satisfy them. Do Thou, Lord, grant power to Thy Word, and make it mighty, as in days gone by, to draw men to Jesus Christ, and to keep them in Him. Whatever difficulties, perplexities, sorrows, or darkness stoop upon our path, may we realize how blessed it is to serve Thee in newness of spirit and not in the old bondage of the letter. We rejoice in a faith that enquires, and faces all truth unafraid. We thank Thee for the growing sense of freedom that is ours in our search after Thee. May our worship ever be reasonable service, the expression of our true self, the glad homage of heart and mind and soul to Him, Whose we are, and Whom we would ever seek to serve.

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## MORNING

### *General*

○ **Lord**, truly Thy mercy endureth for ever, and great is Thy faithfulness. Thou hast made great lights, for Thy mercy endureth for ever. Thou hast had pity on us in our low estate, for Thy mercy endureth for ever. Thou hast breathed into our souls the breath of life, and hast lifted us up upon our feet. Thou hast given us dominion over the works of Thy hands. Who shall not praise Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy glorious Name ?

Praise be to Thee for the seven seas we sail, and the far dwellings we have raised ; for all the wealth and wonder of the world ; for the spirit which keeps young when the tabernacle of the flesh grows old ; for our precious heritage in the thoughts of the wise and the labours of the good and the prayers of the devout ; for the free spirit wherewith we may serve Thee ; and for our deliverance from bondage to fear.

O God, the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift, we bring to Thee the offering of our praise and prayer for all the mercies of this day. We praise Thee for health of body and soundness of mind ; for the blessings of our lot ; for the parents and teachers and benefactors of bygone days ; for faithful servants ; for kind neighbours and thoughtful friends, and for all those who, by word or deed or example help us to bear the burden of life and to praise Thee by the way. Above all, we thank Thee for all that Jesus is to us ; for the presence in our hearts of Thy Holy Spirit ; for the assurance of succour and support amid the trials of life, and for the hope of a blessed immortality in the world to come.

We desire, O Lord, with humble hearts to acknowledge all the way by which Thou hast led us ; Thy great pitifulness and patient forbearance ; Thy kindness that has ever been loving-kindness and Thy mercy tender mercy. We lament that we have given Thee so little cause to love us or to be honoured in us. Each day of our lives we provoke Thy patience by our want of thought and lack of love ; by our unworthy thoughts of Thee

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and of Thy ways ; by our shameful forgetfulness of the Giver of all ; by anxious cares and needless fears ; by base motives and unholy passions ; by honouring Thee with our lips while our hearts are far from Thee.

Father in heaven, even while we make our prayer to Thee our hearts condemn us. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, for in Thy sight shall no flesh be justified. Deal not with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our transgressions, but in Thy mercy put all our sins behind Thy back, and cast all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. And as Thy saving Word comes to set us free, travelling across the mountains of our guilt and the vast ocean of our unbelief, Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, that we may decline from sin and incline to virtue, and walk before Thee with a perfect heart.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably, we beseech Thee, on the whole body of those in whom Thy Holy Spirit dwells, and by the tranquil operation of Thy perpetual Providence carry out the work of man's salvation, and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised again, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things are returning to perfection through Him from whom they took their origin, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## MORNING

### *General*

**Almighty and Eternal God**, Whose punctual providence has rolled back the curtains of night and led forth the rejoicing sun, banish the slumber from our souls that they too may arise to magnify the Lord, and awaken our spirits that they may rejoice in God our Saviour.

Thou art ever rousing us with new wonders and giving us the to-morrows for which we asked. And yet without Thy grace how shall we walk aright? To-morrow shall be as to-day, and much more so, unless Thou give us a new beginning. This is the day which the Lord hath made. It speaks to us of creating power; it sings to us of redeeming love: and we would stir up our souls and all that is within us to bless and magnify Thy Holy Name.

Lord, in Thy presence we dare not pretend. Our poor, pitiful pride drops from us, and we stand all trembling in the white light. But mercy every way is infinite, and in that mercy do we confide. We have gone our ways about the world, which has thought us happy and confident and unvisited by fear. So well have we worn our mask of gaiety or cynicism or indifference, that men have thought of us as safe from the visiting messengers of Thy terrors and alarms. But sometimes the loneliness of spirit is more than we can bear. We wonder what the veiled future holds in her folded hands, and, strive as we may to affect a gay indifference, we dare not face it alone. Give unto us the unshakable confidence of those who know that their times are in Thy hand, and that Thou knowest the way that they take. Set our feet upon a rock, and establish our goings.

We pray Thee to bless the whole family of mankind from one end of the earth to the other; to destroy every form of tyranny and superstition; to remember for good all Christian kings, princes and rulers, especially the sovereign who bears rule over us.

We pray that Thou wouldest preserve to us the blessings of

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an equal and impartial freedom ; that we may use our liberties and our great strength for the glory of God and the welfare and progress of mankind. That Thou wouldest make us wise to discern the signs of the times and to know how we ought to act ; that we may be delivered from the arrogance of spirit which prevents us from seeing in other nations and among other races our brothers for whom Christ died ; that we may be patient when we see the younger peoples awakening to national consciousness, especially when that awakening makes them blind and unfair to the part which this nation, under God, has had in bringing about this day and in training and preparing them for it.

We pray that Thou wouldest bring to nought the machinations of men who have sold themselves to serve the powers of evil. That the prevalent spirit of goodwill may not evaporate in empty desire, but through the holy determination of those who have seen the more excellent way may take shape in our time, in such form that civil strife at home and international warfare may finally be things of the long ago.

We pray for all who have been alienated from the Church of Christ by the harshness or the inconsistency of her professing members ; for all who are embittered through injustice or sick of heart through hope so long deferred, that it is hard for them to believe in the love of God : that all such may see the blessed face of Jesus slavered over with the spittle of the men for whom He died, and think less of their own wrongs and grievances.

For all dumb creatures we pray ; that men may be merciful to the beasts, and be touched with a feeling of their sufferings.

For all who came into this place with no clear idea of why they came ; that they may see Jesus and be satisfied.

For any who are sick, or suffering, or any way afflicted in mind or body or estate ; especially for those known to us, whose names and needs we bring before Thee in the silence. . . .

And finally, as Christian men and women should, we pray in the words, as we ever would pray in the spirit, of Him Who taught us to say, *Our Father*.



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### *General*

☉ **Thou** that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. In the multitude of our thoughts within us Thy comforts, O God, delight our soul. We wait for Thee, and in Thy Word do we hope. Have respect unto the prayer of Thy servants, and hide not Thy face when we call upon Thee.

We praise Thee, O God ; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship Thee, Father and Giver of life. Our senses are awake to the glory of colour and form and sound in nature. Thine earth has put on her glorious apparel. Our hearts are singing too

But most of all are we glad that God is in His heaven. Nay, His tabernacle is with men. Through all this garment of time and space we dimly discern the form of the living God. His goings are in the sanctuary and His ways in the hearts of men. This beauty of nature is His vesture, this music the rustle of His skirts. He goes by to proclaim His name of mercy and grace, and hidden in the cleft of the rock we hear and fall in prostrate adoration.

O Thou Who art the blessed and saving Guest of all hospitable souls, and Who dost constantly stand at the door and knock, grant unto us such a holy hospitality that we may open all the doors of our lives, whether of thought or love or purpose, to Thy gracious entry. Then wilt Thou establish the tables of Thy communion in the chambers of our souls and fill them with the fragrance of Thy presence.

Blessed Lord, too long have we kept Thee waiting without, not recognizing our Guest. Has any love lightened and lifted life to the shining heights ? Has any desire made our pulses stir ? Has any quiet consolation kept us true and brave ? Has any hope caused our face to shine and hushed us with a holy awe ? Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me ? Lord, forgive our blindness, and enter in to have Thy way and work Thy will.

Father, the hour is come. We have built the altar. Send



## Sunday Prayers

Thou the fire from heaven. We have spread the table. Break Thou the bread. We have brought the sick. Let Thy spirit be present to heal. We have opened the Book. Shine Thou upon its pages. We have gathered about the Cross of Thy dear Son. Be Thou in our midst. Here, in communion with Thee, we would gain strength for the labours, patience for the trials, and light for the perplexities and difficulties of our lives. We do not ask that Thou shouldest take us out of the world, but that Thou wouldest keep us from its evil. We do not ask that life should be all pleasantness ; that all pain should be removed from the members of the body whose Head was crowned with thorns. It is enough for the servant that He be as his Master, and the disciple that he be as his Lord. But deny us not, we beseech Thee, the comfort of Thy grace; and in every shadowed valley let the clear shining of Thy light be seen, and hold Thou our hand.

O Thou, unseen but not unknown, to Whom our hearts go out in trust and hope, deepen the roots of our trust in Thee, that we may win new strength for duty and a more sure repose of faith. May we rejoice in nothing but that which moveth us to Thee, and find nothing too grievous to bear but that which draweth us from Thy side. Let that labour delight us which is done for Thee, and let all the repose weary us which is not in Thee.

And now, Almighty God, Who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto Thee, and dost promise that where two or three are gathered in Thy Name Thou wilt grant their requests : fulfil now the desires and petitions of Thy servants as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## MORNING

### *General*

**Lord of our Lives** yet once again Thy gladsome day is here, and we have heard the voices calling us to prayer. From each high place they call across the busy tideway of our life. And now what have we come to see? They said that Jesus of Nazareth passes by. And once, so long ago, we did but see Him passing by, and yet we love Him till we die. But that was long ago; and He has not been our way again; or if He came our eyes were holden when He came and went.

Lord, if Thou hadst been here our conscience had not died. And we thought that we had ceased to care. And just when we were safest, something shattered our unbelief—twilight rain in the garden called forth fragrance we had not perceived before. We went our hardened way, so certain, so secure, unvisited by dreams that haunt and visions that allure. These were our childhood's playthings that with such a confidence of manhood we had put away. Lord of the winnowing fan, if still there be some grains of good on the bare threshing-floor, Thou Who hast purged our pride receive our prayer. Lord, we believe: help Thou our unbelief.

Lord, Who knowest all things, and lovest all men better than we know; Thine is might, and wisdom, and love to save us. Thou didst come that we might have the abundant life for which we long, unstreaked by sinning and untouched by death. Our fathers, the men of old, walked by Thy divine guidance, and were held high above doubt and despair. God moved in a mysterious way, but moved; and at His marching, great of heart and true of soul they, too, went with Him to the fight, these godly ones of old. Wilt Thou not turn and look on us, Thine handmaids' sons, to bring us in and lead us home?

From all perplexity of mind; from loneliness of thought and discontented brooding; from the feeling that we have missed life's prize and that nothing matters now, good Lord deliver us, and set us free. Especially from whatever sins beset us, choking and hindering our prayer, thwarting the pure intention

## Sunday Prayers

of our souls, save and deliver us with might, good Lord.

From all base desertions, unworthy compromises, and unholy alliances, Lord set us far. From all things that separate us from our fellows and from our God ; from all evils we have prayed against, and from those evils we have not thought of, yet are the enemies of our souls, strong Christ, deliver us. O Lord, let us not live to be useless in a world that needs the strength of our right arm and the warmth of our pure love and the wings of our soaring prayer. Thou knowest all our rush of life, the constant pressure of cares, the burdens that must be borne. Thou knowest how busy we must be this day ; if we forget Thee, do not Thou forget us. All our desire is to give Thee the service of loving hearts all the days of our life.

Lord of all true and honest hearts, Who at the first didst make man in Thine own image that Thou mightest have joy of him ; far from our high estate we fell. But Christ has set our manhood on the throne where He lives and reigns. We believe that Thou hast a use for consecrated lives. We believe that he who follows Christ shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life. We believe that not for ever shall life's most precious things be hid in death's dateless night ; that not for ever must we see through a darkened glass, but one day shall know even as also we are known. Until that day, O God, until that day, as Thou hast so generously trusted us, so do we trust Thee, sure that our dear committal is all quite safe. And as we pray help us to live, granting us day by day the grace and comfort that we need. Guide Thou our footsteps from this hour ; that to perfection's sacred height we nearer still may rise, till every thought shall be Thy slave, and every deed Thy crown.

And these things we ask in the Name of Him Who wore the garment of our humanity like the robe of a king, and glorified Thee on the earth.

# Sunday Prayers

## MORNING

### *General*

**Eternal and Ever-Blessed God**, Whose strength is made perfect in weakness, bend from Thy high throne and the spheres of endless day that Thou mayest hear the cry of Thy servants who seek Thy face in prayer. We would not have sought Thee unless we had been found of Thee. Graciously continue the work of Thy Holy Spirit in our hearts, that with pure minds and free spirits we may worship Thee now.

Grant us fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfil, all that is well-pleasing unto Thee this day. Order Thou our worldly condition to the glory of Thy Name ; and of all that Thou requirest us to do, grant us the knowledge, the desire, and the ability, that we may so fulfil it as we ought ; and may our path to Thee, we pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end. Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards ; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out ; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know Thee, diligence to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace Thee.

O Thou Lord of our life, when our hearts are hard and parched, come upon us with a shower of mercy. When grace is lost from life come with a burst of song. When tumultuous work raises its din on all sides, shutting us out from beyond, come to us, our Lord of silence, with Thy peace and rest. When our beggarly hearts crouch in life's dark corners come with the ceremony of a king.

O God, Who art giving us even now these moments of quiet fellowship together, and art knitting our hearts most wonderfully in our united supplication, let not the vision fade into the light of common day. O Christ, our Lord and King, Who knowest how little able we are of ourselves to compass the thing that we have seen, hold us by Thy grace to every high resolve and each true desire. May we be alive in Thy world,

## Sunday Prayers

gladly taking our share of all its striving and travail. And of Thy mercy deliver us all from fear of that which we call death. May it be for us but the keen call of Thy voice, sounding through the garden to bid us come in for the dews are falling. If it be Thy will, let the time for the parting be sweet and welcome, like the close of a happy day. Let it not seem to those who watch about us as an end, but wonderful completion, the kiss of God on the drooping head, the embrace of a sustaining arm to the fainting body. Let love melt into memory, and pain into song. Let there be a quiet folding of the hands, a welcoming of friendly faces, and then a rush of wings.

Dear Father, how good it is thus to commune with Thee. How have we ever found Thy service irksome or Thy worship dull ? And if the foretaste of unbroken fellowship be so sweet, what must be the endless rapture of Thy saints in glory ! And when the light grows dim, and the heart bowed down can sing no song of grace, we will not repine. He that spared not His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things ? Lord, is it we to whom these comfortable words are said ? Oh, shame that we have shown no happy morning face to beguile others from their doubt and woo them from their sin ! Companions of the Christ, we would once again fare forth on life's highways, greeting the unseen with a cheer, hailing the promises afar off, pressing toward the goal.

So from our prayer we rise. If there be aught amiss in that we ask, Father forgive, and teach us the better way. But we bless Thy name for all that Thou unfoldest and revealest through the muddy vesture of our thought, and for such access of grace as Thou hast already given, strengthening us to work patiently, to endure steadfastly, and to continue in the doing of Thy will. We also bless and praise Thee, O Lord our God, that when we are in darkness and we see Thee not, Thy heaven remaineth full of light, and we beseech Thee to help us at all times to remember that the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## EVENING

### *First Prayer*

○ **Loving Father**, in Whose favour is life, and Whose lovingkindness is better than life, we come to seek Thy face at close of day. For Thee there are no setting suns, no ebbing tides. With Thee there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Look upon us who have come aside to pray, that seeking we may find, and to our knocking some door of hope may open. And as Thou comest in Thy grace, grant unto us such holy hospitality that we may fling open wide the doors of our being to such a saving Guest.

It may be that some of us scarce know why we are here. Something in the evening sky, some pale star, some wandering wind, a tender memory, an ache in the heart, a yearning for a deeper peace, wrought in our restless wills and led us here. But here we are, and Thou art here ; and the power of God is present to heal.

Forgive us, Lord, who scarce can forgive ourselves. If there be rising within us now some healing sense of shame for all our misusings of Thy grace, our paltry excuses, our shabby subterfuges, our easy parryings of Thy searching sword, let it avail to move Thy pity and invoke Thy grace. We find it hard to pray. They have taken away our Lord, and we know not where they have laid Him, for we forsook Him and fled. Be ours the glad surprise of finding this night that He has gone before us into the place of our first vows and our earliest love, and is waiting for us in this new-born sense of sin and consciousness of need. Lord, Thou knowest all things ; Thou knowest that we love Thee. Lord, we believe ; help Thou our unbelief. And whatever good thing be denied us withhold not from us that openness of mind and honesty of purpose to which all things that are necessary for life and salvation shall be vouchsafed both here in time and hereafter in eternity. That Thy Name alone, O Christ, may be glorified.



## EVENING

### *First Prayer*

☉ **Thou** Who art the Shepherd of our life, bestir us in heart and conscience to hear Thee calling us, and, as we obey and come to Thee, enfold us with Thy love.

Nourish us by Thy Word as in a quiet pasture, and satisfy the hunger of our souls. From all that frets and burdens us, give us release and calm as of them that rest at close of day beside still waters. Refresh us, Thy wayward folk, with the fountain of grace that springs from the Tree of our salvation, and reveal to us the presence of Him Whose eyes burn with love of us, and whose voice is as the sound of many waves.

Instruct us by Thy counsel, and so help us to regain the bearings of life that to-morrow we shall betake ourselves by true paths in our pilgrimage, and in nothing wander from the way of Thy commandments. Whether our passage be by sunny highways, or in dark valleys, Thou art our constant guide and stay. Make Thou our journey luminous with this brave faith. Even if death come out upon us or nigh them most dear to us, keep us fearless in that same confidence.

Thy promises and Thy presence are as a rod and a staff to direct and deliver us. Bestow upon us all that is needful for our bodily life, and cause our face to shine with the joy of duty and the contentment of serving Thee in all things.

Give us grace to carry a full cup humbly in the day of our prosperity ; and if our cup be bitter, grant us the spirit of Him Who in our stead prayed, Father not My will, but Thine be done. And this night and always, even to the end of our days, let nothing disturb the assurance which now is ours, that Thy goodness and mercy shall never forsake us, for Thou hast numbered us in the household of Thy Son, and nothing can separate us from the love wherein Thou and He and we are one.

# Sunday Prayers

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## EVENING

### *First Prayer*

God of the Soul of Man, Who keepest Thine ancient tryst with us at eventide, we enter the garden of Thy peace in the cool of day. Gone are the high lights of noon, the splendour of the sun and radiant morn ; but Thou art here.

O Saviour Christ, Thou knowest behind what fast-barred doors we hide to-night, and tremble in our fear. Thou knowest the dreams that have died from our hearts and the visions that have faded from our minds. We trusted that it had been He who should have redeemed His people ; but they tell us that far hence He lies beneath that Syrian sky, and the good Lord Jesus has had His day.

Once again it is evening on the first day of the week, and the disciples are assembled. Through every closed door come, O Thou risen Christ, and stand in our midst, and breathe upon us, saying, Peace be unto you. So shall the disciples be glad, when they see the Lord. Display Thy wounds, and break the bread, and cause our hearts to burn. Show us the Christ who suffered. Persuade us that

Though now ascended up on high,  
He bends on earth a brother's eye :  
Partaker of the human name,  
He knows the frailty of our frame.

Lead us out to Bethany. Rebuke the faithless longing that would know times and seasons. Renew within us that comforting assurance that Thou art with us alway even unto the end. And though clouds may receive Thee out of our sight, suffer us never to doubt that Thou shalt come again. So may we return to the world of men that needs our help with great gladness, endued with power from on high. We ask it to the praise of Thy Holy Name.

## EVENING

### *First Prayer*

**Almighty God**, Who dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory, before whose splendour the uttermost stars above us fade away, we call upon Thee from this darkening earth and within this little house. Yet Thou art here ; and in the face of Jesus Christ we behold the condescension of Thy majesty and the wonder of Thy love. As one whom his father pitieth so dost Thou brood upon us ; as one whom his mother comforteth, so dost Thou draw us to Thy breast.

Deliver us from that awe-struck terror of Thine infinite might and splendour whereby men lost heart and faint in their insignificance or go defiantly about this world, as though overlooked by Thee. And, likewise, guard us from that presuming on Thy grace and patience which destroys in our heart all holy fear, as though Thy judgments in the earth and in the souls of men were past and gone. Keep us alive to that jealousy of Thine regarding us, which looks with disappointed love on all within us that mars our growth towards that stature of perfect manhood and womanhood for which Thou hast created us and hast re-created us through Christ.

Therefore we beseech Thee to cleanse us of all sin and to put to shame within our breast all treason against Thy hopes concerning us and Thy sore travail with our souls. Suffer us not to leave this house and gateway of heaven at which we wait upon Thee now, without possessing the tender joy that is their portion who yield to the chastening of Thy judgments, and lift up trembling hearts to Thy forgiveness, and cry to Thee for one day more in which to prove the triumph of Thy grace in a life restored to purity and peace and reconsecrated to Thy service.

# Sunday Prayers

## EVENING

### *First Prayer*

Unto the Hills do we lift up our eyes, and to the Hill of God, from whence cometh our help. O Thou unslumbering Sentinel, keeping watch above Thine own, our brief bivouac we make beneath the covert of Thy patient love until each trembling tent is struck, and we go forth on the long, last march.

For all the gifts with which our passing days are filled, we give Thee thanks. For all things beautiful, and good, and true ; for that Thou hast kept the best in store, we praise Thy name. For all the sweet compulsions of Thy will that moulded us to Thy mind and heart ; for joy that gave us wings, and sorrow that ennobled our life, we give Thee thanks. For the sheer gladness of living ; for sunlight on lawns, and the scent of new-mown grass ; for stars in the waving tree-tops, and the moon on summer seas, we give Thee thanks.

For womanly tenderness and manly strength, and for their mating, we praise Thy name ; for touch of Thee in the soul of our friend ; for the light in children's eyes ; for the welcome of our own fireside, we give Thee thanks.

For the Word made flesh to dwell among us and evermore abide, we would uplift our far too feeble thanks. For those who came so close, for John and Mary, Martha, Magdalene ; for Nicodemus and the Arimathean who came at the last ; for Bethlehem, and Galilee, and Calvary ; for all the revelation and salvation of the old, old story, we give Thee thanks.

For the Church of Thy Son, and our place in her holy array, we give thee Thanks. For all who march with us to the help of the Lord against the mighty ; for all that pushes back the frontiers of darkness ; for all who are led by invisible hands to their several posts in the Camp of God ; and for the rest that remains at the end of the long day's campaign, we give Thee thanks.

Graciously hear our prayers and pardon our misdeeds, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.



## EVENING

### *First Prayer*

Holy Father, we entreat Thee to grant us in this time of evening worship a sense of Thy presence more sacred and serene than sunset on the hills and beyond still waters.

Now, and at all times, when we come within Thy house, help us to worship Thee with simple penitence and child-like trust, and a spirit that longs to know and to do Thy will.

We come in lowliness and aspiration to contribute our whole heart to Thy praise. Even if our heart be breaking, we will seek to praise Thee ; for we know that sweeter than all the melodies of heaven in Thine ears is the cry of a broken heart. Here would we submit our will in all things unto Thine. Here would we seek to banish all self-sufficiency, cold pride, and discontent from our breast, and to yield ourselves in devotion to Thy faithful guidance of us.

Help us, therefore, who are met before Thee in our common need and longing, to prevail with Thee in all those supplications in our hearts, of which our poor words to Thee are but the symbols of unutterable prayer. Open Thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth Thy praise. We would sing heartily to the glory of Thy name, attend to Thy voice in the holy Scriptures with reverence, and hearken to the message of him who leads our meditation on Thy truth, with a mind that seeks to apply to our own conscience and life that therein which Thou dost inspire.

We lay all our sins and burdens at Thy feet, that we may be shriven of our iniquity, be made clean and honest in our hearts again, and strengthened to live anew within the world that simple, just, and affectionate life to which we are called as disciples of Thy Son, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit be glory everlasting.



# Sunday Prayers

## EVENING

### *Second Prayer*

**Holy Father**, within the shelter of Whose love there is room for all perplexed minds and all burdened hearts, we come again to seek Thy face in prayer. To none of the children of men hast Thou ever said, Seek ye My face, in vain. In the multitude of our disquieting thoughts within us Thy comforts delight our souls. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble ; therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. O my soul, why art thou troubled with unrest ? And we smile to think God's greatness flows around our incompleteness, round our restlessness His rest.

Dear Father, how it quiets and strengthens our souls just to wait upon Thee in prayer. Our little span of troubled years, of stained and grief-driven days, we bring to Thy calm eternity. Over the winding paths of life we own the brooding of Thy watchful care. We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what things Thou didst in their days, in the days of old. But Thine ear is not heavy that it cannot hear, nor Thine arm shortened that it cannot deliver. Arise, and come for our help, Thou Mighty to save.

Grant us now Thy grace as we wait upon Thee in this house of prayer, that we shall arise and go as those who have seen Thee face to face. Help us to believe that all is well if we are Christ's, for Christ is God's. Deliver us from the tyranny of shifting moods and wavering feelings, and, knowing that the future is Christ's as the past has been His, may we go forward fearing nothing. In the tests of to-morrow may the memory of to-day strengthen us. May the joy of the Lord be in our hearts to-day, and the beauty of the Lord in our lives to-morrow. Help us to reach out past the things we cannot understand to the God who understands us. We thank Thee for the passing of what changes, and for the changelessness of what passes not. Teach us the infinite significance of the set of life, and the insignificance of the setting. And now and always help us to do Thy will, sure that in the doing of Thy will we shall find rest unto our souls.

And these things we ask in His name Who has taught us in our prayers to say, *Our Father*.



## EVENING

### *Second Prayer*

☉ **GOD**, the Father of Lights, from Whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we bring to Thee our offering of praise for all Thy mercies of this and every day. For the gift of life and all that makes it good and beautiful ; for health and strength, soundness of mind, and a will to be faithful to our daily work, we give Thee praise. For the joys of home, for teachers and benefactors, for kindly neighbours and loving friends, for all who, now or from remotest days, have led us in the way of truth and godliness, and of all things that are lovely and of good report, we give Thee praise. For the rest and encouragement which this holy Day has brought us, and our renewal in readiness to face the world again in courage and hope, we give Thee praise. And we bless Thee, O God, above everything, for the knowledge of our redemption through Jesus Christ ; for the presence in our hearts of His Holy Spirit ; for the assurance of succour and support in this life and for the hope of a blessed immortality in the world to come.

We intercede with Thee, most merciful God, for all who know Thee not, and wander in ignorance and sin. For the homeless and the outcast we entreat Thee, and for all who with breaking hearts grope vainly amid doubt and error for the light of Thy love that shines for us all from the face of Jesus Christ. For all Thy children who are in distress of body, in sorrow or perplexity of spirit, in fear of the future, in uncertainty of Thy providences, we most humbly and sincerely pray. And we beseech Thee so to prosper Thy Gospel among all people that Thy Kingdom may be established throughout the world and Thy name adored and glorified in all mankind. Hear us, O God, for the sake of Him who taught us thus to pray, *Our Father*.

# Sunday Prayers

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## EVENING

### *Second Prayer*

**Lord of our Life**, Who came to bring us life abundant amid the ways of sin and death, we thank Thee for our heritage. Other men have laboured and we have entered into their labours, reaping rich gain of mind and soul. The place of our habitation is fragrant with the outpouring of the golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. We more firmly tread the common ways of life who follow the pioneers of freedom, champions of liberty, captains of industry, and all who have been faithful in their day of toil. As the candle of the Lord hast Thou made man's spirit burn and shine, till light has come to cheer our darkness and lead us in the paths of surer knowledge.

O Thou Who hast set eternity within our heart, and made us all the pilgrims of a larger hope, we bless Thy name for this divine unrest ; for visions that urge us on and lead us up ; for intimations of our high estate ; for the quiet pressure of the steadying hand of duty, the hush of solemn thoughts, for moments when the veil grows thin and we are awed by rush of angel wings, for tasks in hours of insight willed, for golden dreams that will not be denied.

For memories of Lord's Day evenings long ago whose sweetness lingers still, we give Thee thanks ; and for some who have arisen and gone from our side. For little sanctuaries in quiet country places, when scents and sounds of summer came through open windows, and God and His strong help were near, we give Thee thanks. For the lighted hearth of home, and long winter evenings round the fire ; for music, and voyagings in great books, for laughter and silent understanding, and for prayer around the family altar, we give Thee thanks. And we bless Thy Name that not all the forgetful years that intervene can ever rob us of these memories that bless and burn.)

When new ways open and new calls come, and our courage and endurance are summoned to the laying hold on life, help us to be steadfast and unmovable, sure that Thou knowest the way that we take. Restore unto us the joy of going on, the rapture of the forward look, the gladness of the goal : through Him in Whose words, as in Whose spirit, we would ever pray,  
*Our Father.*

## EVENING

### *Second Prayer*

**Our Father,** Who art in heaven, Whose mercies none can number, we would praise Thee for all Thy gracious benefits towards us. Thou forgivest the sins of the contrite and redeemest their life from destruction. Thou crownest Thy children with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Day by day Thy hand has ministered to our needs ; and by Thy grace and Spirit Thou renewest our strength. Thou hast made known Thy way unto us by the lawgivers and prophets of Thy chosen people. Thou hast nowhere in any age left Thyself without a witness among men ; Thou hast enriched our race by visions of justice and truth, beauty and goodness, bestowed on the various tribes of earth. Thou hast brought all Thy revelation to perfection in Thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, Christ Jesus, our heavenly Teacher and Redeemer. Glory be to Thee, O God, our Father, for all Thy grace and favour to us and to all mankind.

Quicken the minds and consciences of men and women everywhere to recognize these Thy wonderful works of truth and salvation, and so to answer Thy call in Christ as to enter Thy Kingdom. To this end bless the toil and testimony of Thy Church, and let the whole world see that things which men cast down are being raised again, and that things are returning to perfection through Thy mercy and patient love in Jesus Christ.

Hear us as we pray for the place in which we dwell, for this country, and for all Thy children the world over. Save and succour the poor and weak ; console the disconsolate and sad, restore the fallen ; cheer all that faint by the way ; enlighten the bereaved with the radiance of Thy heavenly promises ; and give confidence to them that draw nigh to death. Answer us, O Lord God, in these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, Who taught us thus to say, *Our Father*.

## EVENING

### *Second Prayer*

**F**ather in Heaven, about Whose feet we bind with golden chains the whole round earth, behold us at our priestly task. O Thou Who didst turn the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends, release our souls from all their bonds as now we intercede.

For Thy servant whom Thou hast anointed to be our King, we pray, in all the loneliness of his exalted state. We surround his throne with a people's love, a people's prayers, and commend him to Thy grace.

For all in positions of authority and influence, that, realizing their weakness they may rise to a saving consciousness of Thy strength, and so be led to govern and guide this people that prosperity may abound, that there be no outcry in our streets.

For all who watch and wait and weep ; for those who keep punctual tryst with grief and wakeful vigils with pain. For all who have lost heart, and are fearful of the footfall of despair. For those who feel that nothing matters now, and have relaxed their watch where unrelenting temptation hides in the shadows. For eyes which have grown weary scanning a sailless sea for ships which have never come in. For all imprisoned within walls of their own building and doors which their own hands have closed. For those whose love has gone unrequited, and whose hungry hearts are starved. For those who have lost the faith which once was theirs, and voyage on strange and stormy seas alone. For all these we pray, that of Thy mercy Thou wouldest restore their unshepherded souls, and lead them in right paths for Thy name's sake.

We pray for our brethren and sisters in lands across the seas, where they wait for letters from home, and eyes grow wistful where they gather in expectancy, and down by alien waters they recall the Sabbath days that are no more, and homesick hearts dreaming of hill and homestead, remember and are still. Into Thy dear, deep silence do we now withdraw, remembering their names and needs. . . .

## Sunday Prayers

And forasmuch as through Jesus Christ our Lord we know that death has been abolished and life and immortality brought to light, rejoicing in the communion of saints we give Thee most high and holy thanks for all those once with us here on earth who have passed to the life beyond. We believe that they see and are satisfied, knowing as they are known. Their love is with us still. God forbid that we should cease to name their dear names in the House of Prayer, as now we do. . . . All praise and glory be to Thee, Thou King of saints, for all that they were to us when they companied with us in these familiar ways ; for all that they are to us now as they mark our homeward march ; for all that they will be to us when we behold them again in God's good time.

O my soul, wait thou only upon God, for from Him is thy salvation. Tarry thou the Lord's leisure, and He shall give thee thy heart's desire. Ye that fear the Lord, wait for His mercy. Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good things. For as His majesty is, so also is His mercy.

*Our Father.*



# Prayers at the Offering

## PRAYERS AT THE OFFERING

**MOST LOVING AND GRACIOUS GOD**, our heavenly Father, do Thou, we entreat Thee, receive this our offering which we dedicate to Thee for the needs of Thy Church. It is of Thy bounty we are enabled to give this to Thee. And grant that now, and in all our giving, we may give joyfully with heartfelt gratitude, acknowledging in all things Thy Fatherly goodness.

O God, the source of all we venture in Thy sight to call our own ; we invite Thee to look within our hearts and see that we make our offering in sincerity and with that tranquil conscience which is theirs who yield to Thee the degree and portion due of that material estate wherewith Thou hast endowed them. And let that blessing come upon us which belongs to them of whom Thy servant spake from Thee saying, The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

O Lord our God, in this that we offer Thee, we but give Thee what was always Thine. Accept our gift, together with the offering of our very selves ; that while Thou blessest what we lay upon the Holy Table of our Lord, Christ Jesus, the benediction of Thy refreshing grace may descend upon Thy servants and renew us, with devoted and generous hearts, to love and serve Thee most faithfully in all our works and ways.

O Thou who hast taught us that a man is accepted of Thee according to that he hath, and not according to that he hath not, do Thou accept the gifts which Thy servants offer, and through Thy blessing upon them may they be used for the extension of Thy kingdom in this land and throughout the whole world. And forasmuch as the gift without the giver is bare, may we first of all offer ourselves willingly to Thy most blessed service, dedicating ourselves anew to Thee ; and do Thou teach us, Lord, by our love to show something of how much we owe.



## Prayers at the Offering

What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us ? Accept, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the gifts which Thy servants bring, and use them for Thine own high and holy ends, that Thy kingdom may be advanced and Thy will be done.

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. To whom we bring our poor unworthy gifts, asking that they may be used for the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in this and in all lands.

O Thou Who in the days of Thy flesh didst sit over against the treasury of the temple, marking the gifts which the worshippers brought, and commending the spirit more than the gifts of the givers, be pleased to bless these offerings which with humble and grateful hearts Thy people lay at Thy feet.

# Prayers before Sermon

## PRAYERS BEFORE SERMON

☉ **Thou** that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Blessed Lord, Who dost vouchsafe the aid of Thy Holy Spirit to those who search the Scriptures that they may grow wise unto salvation ; may the same Spirit which moved holy men of old to write the things which they were taught of Thee so shine in our hearts that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law ; that having good hope and comfort through the revelation of Thy Word to us we may the better show forth Thy praise in our daily life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our God and Father, Who hast given us these moments of quiet thought and fellowship in Thy House, may ours be the spirit that listens and is still. We would hear what God the Lord will speak. Grant us Thy grace, we beseech Thee, that, fearlessly and reverently handling the word of truth we may find it sweeter than honey and more to be desired than much fine gold. And this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, who hast said that heaven and earth may pass away but Thy Word shall not pass away ; grant that we may give diligent heed to the things which belong to our peace. And, O Lord, grant all who contend for the faith, never to injure it by clamour and impatience ; but, speaking Thy precious truth in love, so to present it that it may be loved, and that men may see in it Thy goodness and beauty. And this we ask for Thy Name's sake.

Blessed Lord by Whose providence all Holy Scriptures were written and preserved for our instruction, give us grace to study them each day with patience and love ; and at this time direct and sanctify our meditation upon Thy Word. Strengthen our souls with the fulness of its divine teaching. Keep from us all pride and irreverence. Guide us in the deep things of Thy heavenly wisdom ; and, of Thy great mercy, lead us by Thy Word into everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## Prayers before Sermon

God of all Truth, Who hast enriched us in these Holy Scriptures with the record of Thy Covenants with mankind, grant us Thy grace as now we seek to know the message therein which Thou hast in store for us this day. Bestow upon me Thy servant, who would speak in Thy name, the spirit of discernment, humility, and charity, that the word spoken may be acceptable unto Thee, and that light and joy may be given unto us, through the operation of Thy Spirit, as we wait upon Thine oracles. And this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, Who hast equipped us in this most blessed book with Thy Law and Gospel, as with a light from heaven wherewith to know Thee and to walk aright throughout the darkness and perplexities of this world : illumine our minds as now we turn to study the same with reverent and joyful hope. And quicken us by Thy Holy Spirit that our consciences may welcome its disturbance, our hearts be made eager to receive it as fire from off Thine altar, and our wills be consecrated anew to render obedience to Thee in all things ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Prayers after Sermon

## PRAYERS AFTER SERMON

☉ **GOD**, Whose Word is light and life to them that attend thereto with reverence and love : enlighten our souls by the preaching of Thy truth, and, at this time, bless unto us whatever has been spoken in accordance with Thy mind and purpose. And grant that we may be not only hearers of spiritual words, but also doers of good works, and that in the world we may walk by faith, show forth a blameless life, irreproachable before Thee and in the sight of all : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father, Whose Son is evermore the way, the truth, and the life, suffer not the good seed which He hath sown to be caught away out of our hearts, or to be scorched by tribulation or persecution, or to be choked with cares and pleasures of this life ; but, being received into good and honest hearts, may it bring forth in us abundantly the fruits of faith and obedience : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, Who hast made known Thy truth unto men, that they may cleave to it and live : grant that the words which we have this day heard may be made Thy saving wisdom unto us ; that our hearts being stayed in Thy promises, we may abide in Thy love, and walk in the way of Thy commandments : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Follow with Thy blessing, O Lord, the preaching of Thy Holy Word ; take it home to our hearts and consciences ; and keep us ever in Thy faith and fear : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, the Fountain of all grace and truth, in whom to believe is to have eternal life, bless unto us Thy Holy Word, and write its lessons on our hearts ; that we, hearing it with our outward ears, may receive it inwardly into our souls, and live according to its holy precepts : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayers after Sermon

Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord ; and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night ; for the love of Thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ ; Who liveth and reigneth, and is worshipped and glorified, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end.

Almighty God, Who visitest the spirit of man with the winds that blow from Thy high places, grant unto Thy servants such a holy alacrity that we shall set our eager faces Zionwards. And do Thou of Thy great mercy bring us safely through.

Grant unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another and with Thee, may feel our hearts burn within us, until all pure, and just, and holy, and noble things of God and man may be to us lovely ; and we shall find nothing to fear but that which is hateful in Thine eyes, and nothing worth seeking but that which Thou canst approve. Let the divine brightness and peace so possess our souls that, fearing neither life nor death, we may look to Thy lovingkindness and tender mercy to lift us above that which is low and mean, and at last to give the divine spirit within us the victory, and bring us safe through death into the life everlasting.

The Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. For Thy mercy's sake.

There shall be no night there, where we shall be for ever with the Lord ; and here also, if we follow Him, we shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of life. Let Thy peace, O Lord, be with us now and evermore.

Lord of our life, save us in waking and defend us sleeping : so that while we are awake we may watch with Christ, and while we sleep we may rest in peace : through the same our Lord.

O Almighty God, Who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Thy Son, Christ our Lord : grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which Thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love Thee : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayers after Sermon

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who at the sad hour of eventide didst rest in the sepulchre ; make us ever to abound in sorrow for our sins which were the cause of Thy Passion ; that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with Thee ; Who livest and reignest one God for ever.

May God the Father bless us, God the Son save us, and God the Holy Ghost sanctify us, this night and for evermore.

May the Almighty and Merciful Lord grant unto us pardon, absolution, and remission of all our sins ; time for repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

Dear Father, in the thought of Whose love there is rest, and beneath the covert of whose forgiveness there is peace ; as Thou drawest the blanket of darkness about the earth, so do Thou cover our souls with the mantle of Thy mercy.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us this night and evermore.



## BENEDICTIONS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord : and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Now may the peace of God rule in your hearts and the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom.

The Lord bless you and keep you in all your ways, and make His light to shine around you and within. The Lord hear you in all time of your need, and watch over you and give you peace.

Now may the blessing of God be upon you. May His truth direct you, and His love sustain you ; and may He preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, even for evermore.

And now, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace ; and the God of love and peace be with you.

Unto God's gracious love and protection I commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you : the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you : the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

# Choir Prayers

## CHOIR PRAYERS

○ **Thou** Who inhabitest the praises of Israel, inspire we beseech Thee the souls of Thy servants to whom Thou hast entrusted the conduct of worship in this sanctuary. Give unto each of us so to realize the multitude of Thy mercies that we shall show forth the praises of Him Who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light ; until others, catching from our joyance the gladsome sense of Thy lovingkindness, may raise their voices in holy hymn and psalm and prayer. So may our worship in Thy House this day partake of that first fresh rapture when the morning stars sang together, or when the temple courts rang with the songs of the children.

O Thou Who hast said : Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me, and prepareth a way that I may show him the salvation of God : grant unto Thy servants this day that, praising Thee out of pure hearts and fervent spirits, they may so prepare the channels of Thy grace that the river of God may flow through the dry and parched places. May ours be the child-like spirit of those who bring Thee perfect praise. And grant unto those who have sung Thy praises on earth that hereafter they may join the choir invisible of those who sing the new song around Thy throne.

Open Thou our lips, O Lord, and our mouth shall show forth Thy praise. Inspire these Thy choristers who have consecrated to Thy service the gift of song wherewith Thou hast endowed them. And so sustain them in their guidance of the congregation who are now met to praise Thee, that the lauds of Thy Holy Name may be lifted on high, and that Thy people may truly rejoice in Thy presence with psalms.

Help them so to bear themselves as they worship Thee in Thy sanctuary and lead the songs of Zion, that they shall be acceptable to Thee in this their office, and make all Thy people joyful : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

And He came in the Spirit into the temple : and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him after the custom of the law, then took he Him up in his arms, and blessed God.

### *Prayer of Invocation*

O Thou Who by the influence of Thy Holy Spirit didst grant such joy and assurance unto Thy servant Simeon that he was constrained to say, Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word : for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation ; do Thou enable us at this time by the help of that same Spirit so to apprehend Thy grace in this Sacrament that we too shall be fortified against all the changes and chances of this our mortal life.

Almighty and Most Merciful Father, Who claimest the children as Thy heritage, and Who hast established an everlasting covenant with Thy people and with their offspring : we beseech Thee graciously to receive and bless this little child, whom *his* parents now dedicate to Thee. As, in Thy name, *he* is baptized with the baptism of water, do Thou endow *him* with the gift of Thy Holy Spirit. Accept *him* for Thine own ; set upon *him* the consecrating seal of Thy covenant ; and evermore endue *him* with Thy heavenly grace ; that to *his* life's end *he* may glorify Thee in *his* body and spirit, which Thou hast redeemed : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# The Sacraments

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### *Baptismal Prayers*

○ **Lord Jesus Christ**, Who didst take the little ones up in Thine arms, lay Thy hands upon them, and bless them, and who hast promised to be with us always, even unto the end of the world, look on us now in love as we have come together for this tender and solemn ordinance. We are weak but Thou art strong. We know not what a day may bring forth, and it is not for us to know. But all things are known unto Thee, and ordered in Thy love. Into Thy safe, strong keeping, O Thou Good Shepherd, do we commit this little life. Thou hast called them Thy lambs, and told us that of such is the Kingdom of God. May this child grow up to be a comfort to *his* parents, an ornament to *his* day and generation, and an honour to the Church of Christ.

And now, as at Thy command, we outwardly administer this sacrament of baptism, do Thou, of Thy great mercy, follow the ordinance with the thing signified, baptizing inwardly with the Holy Ghost, writing *his* name in the Book of Life, and sealing this soul from Thy courts above.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost : as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Most Merciful God, the loving Protector of all weak and lowly creatures, keep, guard, and evermore bless this child, now received of Thee into the fold of Thy Church. From *his* early days may *he* walk before Thee unto all well-pleasing in Thy sight. May *he* be a blessing to the home and the world into which *he* has been born. As *he* grows in stature, may *he* also grow in wisdom and in Thy holy fear and love. Keep *him* by Thy power through faith unto salvation, that, at the last, *he* may be presented before the presence of Thy glory with great joy.

Bless the mother of this child. Prosper and sustain her in bodily health ; and receive the song of her heart, for verily her

## The Sacraments

soul doth magnify Thee, the Lord, and her spirit doth rejoice in Thee, her Saviour.

Impart to both Thy servants, the parents of this babe, a wise, loving, devout and faithful spirit. Help them to consecrate to Thee this gift of Thy love, and to make their home a temple of true affection, noble and generous discipline, and sincere religion.

Requicken within all who are present here that child-like spirit, lacking which we abide without Thy heavenly Kingdom ; and, as we commit ourselves, our homes, and all we love to Thee, give us grace daily to be mindful of Thy Fatherly mercy to us Thy children, to rejoice in Thy goodness with thanksgiving, and faithfully in all things to follow and observe Thy law : through Jesus Christ our Lord, who hath taught us thus to pray, *Our Father*.

# The Sacraments

## ADMISSION OF CATECHUMENS

**MOST GRACIOUS GOD**, Whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, Who keepest covenant with Thy people from generation to generation, and showest Thy wonders and Thy ways unto children's children, we entreat Thy favour for these Thy servants who now come to make open profession of their faith and humbly desire to be admitted to Thy holy feast. We praise Thy Name for the Church of Jesus Christ, in Whose high fellowship the redeemed have found life's fulness, and for our place therein. We give Thee the adoring homage of our hearts for that Thou hast not withheld Thy lovingkindness from these Thy children, but hast given them shelter within the covenant of Thy peace, and summoned them to Thy service in which is perfect freedom. Be to them now their shield and sun. Feed them with the Bread of Life which cometh down from heaven. Cleanse them in the fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness. Receive them into the fellowship of Thy saints. Graciously make Thyself known to them in the breaking of bread. May they see no man save Jesus only, and in their frailty lean upon His strength. Deepen in their hearts the holy impressions of this hour. Continually renew and strengthen their desire and purpose, that they may reverently take into their hands the memorials of their Lord's death. Alike in the hour of sacramental communion and of active service in the world, fill their hearts with the peace which the world cannot take away. Defend, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee, these Thy children with Thy heavenly grace, that they may continue Thine for ever ; and daily increase in them Thy Holy Spirit, until they come unto Thine everlasting kingdom.

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**MOST GRACIOUS GOD**, we adore Thee for Thy gift of redeeming mercy in Jesus Christ our Saviour ; for the Church of Thy Son, His Body, whereof He is the Head ; and for all means of grace. We praise Thee for those sacred and happy influences which He hath created in our homes, for our training in the joy and discipline of the Christian life, for the gladness of fellowship and the opportunities of service which are ours within this congregation. At this time especially do we give Thee thanks that Thou hast put it into the hearts of these Thy servants before Thee to profess their faith in Christ, and their love to Him, and to avow that they are indeed the Lord's. We praise Thee that by Baptism they were incorporated within Thy Church. We thank Thee for every holy guidance which in the household of their parents, and by all devout nurture and instruction, has directed them towards the dedication of their life this day, in owning and accepting for themselves the covenant of grace and salvation. Give unto them now and continually of Thy good Spirit, and thereby sanctify them, that they may grow in the knowledge of their Lord, in wisdom and virtue and holiness. Wherever their lot is cast, may their light so shine before men that Thy name shall be glorified. Keep them steadfast within the fellowship of Thy Church, and so nourish them in the coming Sacrament that they may be strengthened mightily in the inner man and be filled with holy joy. And when Thy purpose with them is accomplished in this world, may they be found worthy to be partakers of Thy heavenly glory and of the rest that remaineth to Thy people, being found in Christ, to whom, with Thee the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and praise for ever.

# The Sacraments

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we saw His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

### *Eucharist Prayer*

Here do we give unto Thee, O Lord, most high praise and hearty thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all Thy glorious saints from the beginning of the world, who have been the choice vessels of Thy grace and shining lights unto many generations. And we join with them in worship before Thy throne, whence flow all love and light and blessing through all the worlds which Thou hast made.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we praise and bless Thee for all Thy gifts and benefits towards us ; but above all else we thank Thee for Jesus Christ, Thine unspeakable gift. Not as we ought, but as we are able, we praise Thee for His birth in our nature, for His life on earth, for His sufferings and obedience unto death, even the death of the Cross, for His resurrection from the dead, and His ascension to Thy right hand. We give thanks for the coming of the Holy Ghost, and for His abiding presence and work in the Church, and in the world. We praise Thee for the Word and Sacraments, for the fellowship of Thy House on earth, and for the hope of Heaven. Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever.

And now do Thou bless and sanctify with Thy Word and Spirit these Thy creatures of Bread and Wine set before us, and grant that we may become partakers of the body and blood of Jesus, with all His benefits, to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up unto the Lord.

## The Sacraments

And now with angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee, and saying : Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High.

# The Sacraments

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### *Eucharist Prayers*

Unto Thee, O Lord our God, heavenly King, Creator and Saviour of all, we lift up our hearts, and we give thanks unto Thee, as is meet and right. It is our bounden duty and joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. But especially now and here at the Holy Table of Thy Son our Redeemer, we praise and bless Thy Name for Thy love towards us which is ours through Jesus Christ, who, being with Thee in the majesty of the heavenly places, came among us in perfect love, and was made Man for us and for our salvation.

Not as we ought, but as we are able, do we bless Thee for His holy Incarnation, for His perfect life on earth, for His precious sufferings and death upon the Cross, for His glorious resurrection and ascension, and for the promise of the plenitude of His Kingdom.

Thee, mighty God, heavenly King, we magnify and praise. With all the host of heaven, who even now laud and glorify Thy Name around Thy throne, and with all them whose robes were washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, we worship Thee, singing to Thy glory,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory :

Glory be to Thee most high.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Inspire us, O God, with a due sense of our debt to Thy dear Son, both for this life and for the life to come, that we may be less unworthy to take the cup of salvation and call upon Thy holy Name. Shed abroad Thy forgiveness and love in our hearts, that we may come nigh to Him as did he that leaned upon His breast at the first.

O Lord Jesus Christ, manifest Thyself to us in this Thine

## The Sacraments

own ordinance, so that as we take the bread into our hands we may know Thee to be with us more nearly than the touching of Thy hand ; and that, as we take the cup, we are closer to Thee than if our hands were about that awful Tree down which flowed Thy precious blood.

And now, most merciful Father, look upon us, we most humbly beseech Thee, as we make that Memorial of Thy Son's most blessed sacrifice which He hath commanded us to make. Send down Thy Holy Spirit to bless and consecrate these Thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set before Thee, that the bread which we break may be unto us the Communion of the Body of Christ, and the cup which we bless the Communion of the Blood of Christ ; that we, receiving them, may by faith be made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, and to the glory of Thy most holy Name.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

*Our Father,*

## MARRIAGE PRAYERS

### *First Prayer*

**Our Help** is in the Name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth. Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in every circumstance of our mortal life would we lift up our hearts unto Thee. Most especially in this glad and solemn hour do we entreat Thee of Thy mercy to hear our heartfelt prayers. Our times are in Thy hands. Thou knowest the way that we take. Amid all the perplexing paths of life Thou only art our Guide, and the true and living way.

Abundantly bless these Thy servants whose hearts Thou hast knit and whose lives Thou now dost join. As Thou hast given them to each other in the tender ties of love, so do Thou unite them in the holy bonds of marriage.

With all Thine other good gifts unto them be pleased to give them now a quiet heart and a peaceful mind as they make their vows before Thee ; and grant that they, being united to each other in the covenant of Holy Matrimony, may also be united to Thee in that heavenly covenant which is ordered in all things and sure : through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose spirit, as in whose words we would ever pray. *Our Father.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, Who hast so ordained and sanctified the estate of marriage that Thy blessed servant Saint Paul saw therein the image of the love that bindeth Christ and the Church in one : we praise Thee for this revelation of the dignity and beauty of Christian matrimony, and we pray that Thy children who now stand before Thee may be possessed of this so great a vision of the covenant which they are seriously minded to make their own.

As Thou in Thy gracious providence hast brought them together, so that with the awakening of love in their hearts they have plighted their troth the one to the other, and are now come into Thy presence to be made husband and wife in



## Marriage

the name of their Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we beseech Thee to bless them in this their devout and affectionate purpose, and to fill their hearts with gratitude to Thee for this consummation of their love.

Open their hearts to receive Thy grace and hallowing benediction as they declare their mind before these people and assume the solemn and happy vows of holy wedlock. And unto Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we shall evermore ascribe honour and glory and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *Second Prayer*

☉ **Loving Father**, Who, seeing that it is not good for us to be alone, hast wrought the mystic mating of kindred spirits who find each other and are glad, do Thou hear the prayers that are rising now from the hearts of Thy people who have beheld these two lives made one. We surround them with our love, but Thou alone canst save them by Thy power. Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

As they have begun their united journey in Thy house, may they continue it in Thy fellowship. Suffer them not to fall away from the holy rapture of this hour and its solemn sealing. Be theirs the love which knows no ending, whose strength standeth in sacrifice, and has increase unto the end ; which faces life and is brave, and looks at death all unafraid. May this be one more Christian home builded to the honour of Thy Name, and for the succouring of the saints. Herein may gladness dwell, clean mirth, and healing laughter. Hence may holy prayer arise and gracious influences radiate forth. Peace and prosperity be theirs, and good success which shall not separate them from Thee, nor make them cease to set Thee above their chiefest joy. And if sorrow come nigh them, may it too be powerless to part them from Thy grace. There is nought that we can ask in our loving solicitude that Thou hast not prepared for them that love Thee, whose good gifts put our best dreams to shame. Enrich their souls with Thy heavenly favour, that, living together as heirs of the grace of life, they may adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things ; and, when they have served their generation by the will of God, may they and all of us be received into the presence of Thy glory, and be numbered with the blessed who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

# Marriage

## MARRIAGE PRAYERS

### *Second Prayer*

**M**ost Gracious and Loving God, we entreat Thee to renew and increase Thy grace unto these Thy servants now made husband and wife in Thy Name and by the ordinance of Thy Church. Ratify with Thy blessing, O Lord, this that we Thy servants have fulfilled before Thee. Sustain them and quicken them in will and conscience to keep the vows they have taken in mutual love and obligation towards each other, in dependence upon Thee, and in the love and obedience of Christ their Redeemer.

Confirm and sanctify the home which has been formed this day. May it be to them a citadel of peace and safety throughout life's warfare, a hostel of rest and revival on pilgrimage, a haven of comfort and security from the storms and difficulties that beset even the most faithful of Thy servants in the voyage of life.

Bless them with that measure of material prosperity as befits them in their faithful discipleship of Thy Son, their Saviour. May they use the good things of this life not as ends in themselves, but as means towards all spiritual enrichment, and those treasures that remain unto eternal life.

Give ear to the prayers that arise in all our hearts for them, that they may long be spared the one to the other, so that, as the years come and go, and they abide steadfast in mutual love and service and in mutual obedience, they may have increasing cause to look back with ever deepening joy to this happy day, when so great a joy and opportunity of serving Thee with one heart and will, in their day and generation, entered into their united life. Hear us, O heavenly Father, in this our supplication for the sake of Him Who taught us in our prayers to say, *Our Father.*

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *First Prayer*

**Draw near unto us**, O God, as we draw near unto Thee with our broken hearts, our stricken hopes, and our bruised and fretted faith. Enlighten our eyes so that through our tears and the dim vision we have of Thy providence, we may so see Thy face in the face of Jesus Christ that we shall be comforted and made strong again.

We are Thy people, a company of men and women who from our first days have been nourished in Thy truth and redeeming love through Christ Thy Son our Saviour. Until now Thy grace has been sufficient for us. To-day Thou wilt prove to us, as we wait upon Thee, that in the most forlorn bereavement Thy grace never faileth ; and Thou wilt confirm and enlarge our faith in Thee.

Grant unto us to believe with quiet and simple certainty that over all this woe Thy hand is stretched in knowledge and love, and that behind the darkness that has fallen on this home, there shines the radiance of that heavenly realm beneath which this world is as a shadow.

Reveal unto us the presence with us of our great High Priest, even Christ our triumphant Saviour, Who is touched with the feeling of all our infirmities and sorrows. And fill us with reverent confidence and hope as we wait upon Thee in His blessed company at Thy throne of grace, that we may ourselves receive mercy and grace to help in this our time of need.

Open our hearts to receive with readiness and gratitude the words Thou wilt speak to us from the scriptures of Thy revelation in Christ Jesus ; and give us the spirit of Him Who taught us as we pray to Thee to say, *Our Father*.

# Burial of the Dead

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *First Prayer*

Our Father God, Who hast given us the comforting persuasion that neither death nor life, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from Thy love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, in sorrow of heart, yet in quietness and confidence, we have gathered for these last solemn and tender offices of faith and love. Thou art our Refuge and Strength, a very present Help in trouble. Enable us, we pray Thee, to cast all our care upon Thee Who carest for us, and seeing that we have a High Priest Who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, enable us to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Swift to its close ebbs out our little day, but in Thy favour is life, and Thy lovingkindness is better than life. Help of the helpless, O abide with us, and raise our hearts to the things which know no change, save from glory to glory. He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Lord, increase our faith. Help us to look beyond the present darkness to the glory which shall be revealed hereafter. May the dews of sorrow be so lusted by Thy love that even here and now we may bless the Hand that guides and the Heart that plans, and so be joined in the blessed communion of saints who behold the glory of Immanuel's land.

Many there be that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us. Turn us again, Lord God of Hosts, and cause Thy face to shine upon us, and so we shall be safe. We will fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men. For as His majesty is, so also is His mercy. Ye that fear the Lord, wait for His mercy. Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good things. Weeping may endure for a night; but joy cometh in the morning.

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *Second Prayer*

**M**ost Merciful and Loving God, upon Whose Word with its most precious promises we have attended with reverence and gratitude : we entreat Thee to write that gospel of triumphant hope upon our hearts. Comfort us with the assurance that they who in the days of this earthly pilgrimage are partakers of the life of Thy Son their risen Saviour can never be loosed from Him ; even as He lives, so shall they live also ; He cannot deny Himself or them that are bound to Him by His love and sealed by His redeeming blood.

We praise Thee that this was the lot and portion of *him* whose departure leaves us so greatly bereaved ; and we believe that Thou hast so fulfilled Thy fatherly will in *him*, that now *he* is safe in the fellowship of *his* Saviour Who said, I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am there ye may be also. Renew unto us the confidence wherewith our fathers aforetime have ever been comforted by this radiant promise of Thy Son.

Deliver us from every pagan relic in our thought and fear of death. Thou knowest how dear to us is that white form before us, cold and still, which *he* whom we loved inhabited in our sight. Thou knowest how prone we are to think that *he* is thus entombed. Reveal it anew to us that our departed are not thus here ; they are risen. They lived with Thee in the days of their flesh ; they live with Thee now in the ineffable liberty of their Father's house. Reveal it anew to us that there is no darkness in death, but the radiance of the rainbow upon which Thy throne is set in the glory of heaven. Reveal it unto us that there is no coldness in death, but the warmth of a Father's arms beneath us, bearing us home, and the comfort of the hearth of our heavenly home. Reveal it unto us that there is no silence in death, but the music of the celestial choirs, the harmony of the heavenly spheres, and the Song of the Lamb in glory. We lift up our hearts in loving



## Burial of the Dead

gratitude for all our dear one was to us as he companied with us in earth.

*(Here characteristics, works, etc., may be made subject of thanksgiving, and mention made of the loss sustained by the chief mourners in particular.)*

Console Thy servants with the sure and certain hope that the day will dawn when such mystery as attends this separation shall be made plain to us, and even these dim eyes of ours shall be able to trace that providence of Thy dealings which at present seems so strange. Enlighten us, O Lord, with the radiance that streams from the empty grave of Christ and fill our hearts with the assurance that these are not eternal farewells, but only partings for the night, as when the members of a family retire to rest. And we shall all meet again in the morning, to know one another and to love one another with a knowledge and love compared with which the dearest family life on earth is but a faint emblem. Now, O Lord, lettest Thou Thy servants depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for our eyes have seen Thy salvation. Bring us through this darkened vale, O Shepherd of Thy people, and establish us by the still waters and within the pastures of Thine all-sufficient grace.



## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *Second Prayer*

Ⓞ **pitiful Father**, Whose Son tasted death for us that in all things He might be made like unto His brethren, and Who rose triumphant from the grave and ever liveth at Thy right hand, we bless Thy Name that He is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto Thee by Him. He has abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. But our eyes are dim with tears, and it is hard for us to see, and our hearts are heavy with grief, so that we scarce can lift them up. O make real to us, we beseech Thee, all the glorious consolations of our Faith. We know that death is not the end but the expansion of life ; that in our Father's House there are many mansions, and that our beloved are safe in the arms of Jesus. And there shall be no more parting in the city which Thou hast prepared. The throne of God and the Lamb is in it ; and His servants serve Him, and they see His face ; and His Name is in their foreheads. And there is no night there, for the Lord God giveth them light ; and they shall reign for ever and ever.

For all fair memories and lovely hopes we give thee thanks. For yet another tie to bind us to the unseen world. Another of our host has crossed the flood and joined the singers by the sea. And life is life for evermore, and love is love for evermore ; and even now they compass us about, the cloud of witness, our dear and holy dead who are alive for evermore. And when I saw them I wished myself among them.

Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, do Thou Thyself speak the word of assurance to the stricken ones in this home. Our hearts are sore for them. How much more does Thy Father-heart feel for them in their sore anguish. Life will be an emptier thing for all of us, lacking the cheer of our *brother's* smile, and the gift of *his* friendship, and the counsel of a comrade true and proved.

## Burial of the Dead

*(Here may due and fitting thanks be rendered to Almighty God for the peculiar gifts and graces which He vouchsafed unto His servant removed by death.)*

And forasmuch as we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that now is the accepted time, and now is the day of salvation, may our passing days be richer and richer in the things which death cannot take from us. Teach us to use this world as not using it to the full, for the fashion of this world passeth away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom ; and with loins girt and lamps alight we may be as those who wait for the appearing of their Lord.

And now as we go forth on our sorrowful mission may He who wept at the grave of Lazarus be still the Companion of our way. And do Thou keep us in perfect peace, as they whose minds are stayed on Thee Who art the Resurrection and the Life.

*Our Father.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Christ Jesus His Son. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, rest upon and remain amongst us all, now and evermore.

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *Committal Prayer*

**Jesus said:** I am the Resurrection and the Life ; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live : and he that liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord ; yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.

And now, forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God to take unto Himself the soul of our *brother* departed out of this world, we commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the glorious resurrection through our Lord Jesus Christ, and the life of the world to come.

O spread Thy covering wings around,  
Till all our wanderings cease,  
And at our Father's loved abode  
Our souls arrive in peace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, to the end, and in the end.

# Burial of the Dead

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *Committal Prayer*

**Almighty God**, Who hast begotten us unto a living hope by the resurrection of Thy Son from the dead, quicken within us the full assurance of that victory over death and the grave which Christ has secured for them that were His in the days of their flesh.

As we stand at the edge of this grave, forbid that we should think of this as the last of *him* who has passed away from our sight and touch ; and quench within us the lingering thought that now we bid farewell to *him* for ever. Reveal this open grave to us as the symbol of that door into the heavenly home wherein Christ has prepared a place for His own, through which our departed *brother* has already passed from death unto the life that is life indeed. Make us to know and feel that Thy children are very precious in Thy sight, and that they live evermore with Thee, and that Thy mercy endureth for ever.

Be near to us, O Father, as we leave this grave, to comfort and uphold us. May the consoling and fortifying words of the Lord Jesus dwell in us in all wisdom, warning, and encouragement. Give unto us grace that we may in all things obey and serve Thee while we fulfil our earthly days, so that, when Thou callest us hence in our turn, be it soon or late, we may be prepared to face the passage of death with quiet confidence in Thy love and forgiveness, and find in Thy great mercy the perfect and unending rest that abideth in Thee our God and heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## ADVENT

**Almighty and ever-blessed God**, Who in the fulness of time didst send forth Thy Son to be the Saviour of the world, as at this time through Thy longsuffering and patience with us we are permitted once again to begin our Christian Year and to rejoice with Thy Holy Church in the season of Advent, we pray that we may give good heed to the warning voices which call us to repentance and preparation of heart, so that we may come to the brightness of His rising Who for us men and our salvation was incarnate on this earth. Save us from thinking that any privilege of birth or circumstance can entitle us to the favour of Him Whose winnowing fan searches the hearts of men and disposeth the nations in their places, but rather may we all bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

O Thou Who art ever coming to us in the events that befall us, forbid that with untrimmed lamp and ungirt loin we should but hear Thy voice from behind the shutting door. Grant unto us that, spending the time of our sojourning here in godliness and holy fear, we may be like men that look for their Lord, not standing gazing after departing glories, but believing rather that we shall best do Thy will in quiet service of our fellow men.

Blessed Lord, Who hast graciously kept Thy promise to be with us always, and Who art never far from any one of us, may ours be the hallowed joy of those who keep the thought of Thy love bright in the hearts of men until every eye shall see Thee. Until the trump of God shall sound, and the ancient graves be stirred, and Thou shalt come to take unto Thee Thy great power and reign, may we abound in every good word and work, not growing weary in well-doing, forasmuch as we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

So may we who this day rejoice in the remembrance of Thy first Advent be considered worthy to stand before Thee at Thy Second Coming, when the thoughts of all hearts shall be revealed and all purposes made plain. Suffer us never to forget that a thousand years is with the Lord as one day. Before Whose majesty may we all appear blameless through the one sacrifice and redemption which Thou didst come to earth to accomplish and fulfil.

# The Christian Year

## ADVENT—(*continued*)

○ **Lord Jesus Christ**, Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world, Whose messenger came to prepare the way before Thee : grant that the ministers of Thy Church may likewise so prepare and make ready Thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at the last we may be found an acceptable people in Thy sight. And grant, most merciful Saviour, that this season of approach to Christmas Day, whereon we celebrate with joy Thy wondrous birth among us, may be hallowed by devout meditations on Thy marvellous condescension towards us, and that our hearts may be made ready to receive the blessing Thou hast in store for us when we shall come to worship Thee anew in the company of them that gathered in Bethlehem to Thee, Who now livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

**Our Heavenly Father**, as the year draws near that holy and joyous time when Thy Church throughout all the earth celebrates the birth among us of Thy well-beloved Son the Saviour of the world, dispose our hearts towards that happy season in child-like gratitude and simple faith, and in expectation of a requickening of heavenly love within us, adoration to Thee, peace and good-will toward men. Uplift before us likewise that fuller vision of the day when Christ shall appear among us in the plenitude of His travail in the earth and the consummation of His rule. Quicken us with the conviction that all the sin and misery, the disquietude and war, that prevail in this world shall have an end. Thus deliver us, almighty God, from the despair that doth so easily beset us in thinking that Thy Kingdom is so slow to come. Increase our faith in the enterprise of Thy Church in pagan lands, in the League of Nations, in the Parliament of Man and federation of the world ; and encourage us to go on watching and praying and working, each in our several place, doing all we may, however small that may seem to be, and having courage to leave the issue to Thy wisdom and to the times and seasons Thou hast kept in Thine own power. Maintain this brave and glorious vision in our hearts ; even so, with our bright lamps, shall we be ready and quick to welcome Thee when Thou comest, and be made partakers of that crowning Christmastide, when from every hedge and highway the farthest wanderer shall be safely gathered in. And this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## CHRISTMAS

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

### *Invocation*

**MOST MERCIFUL GOD**, Who didst so love the world as to give Thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life ; vouchsafe unto us, we humbly pray Thee, the precious gift of faith, whereby we may know that the Son of God is born of a woman ; that, being rooted and grounded in the mystery of the Word made flesh, we may have power to overcome the world, and gain the blessed immortality of heaven : through the merits of the same incarnate Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the appearing of Whose well-beloved Son in Bethlehem we celebrate with devout and grateful hearts this day : quicken us by Thy Spirit, that we may worthily magnify Thee, O Lord, and rejoice in that so great and marvellous a salvation which came among us in Thy wondrous Child. We would pay the glad homage of our gratitude and love at the lowly bed in which Jesus was laid when He was born to bless mankind ; and we would echo in our hearts the heavenly song of Peace on earth, good-will towards men. Inspire us to give sincere and grateful heed to all that this Day meant at the first for a world that had grown old in weariness and despair, and all that Christ Jesus is ready to accomplish now in us and throughout the world by making all things new.

# The Christian Year

## CHRISTMAS

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

Again, O God, our heavenly Father, we praise Thee with grateful hearts, for Thy most generous love of us and all mankind in the coming of Christ Thy Son, our Saviour.

We bless Thee for that holy and happy hour when of Mary Thy handmaid the Redeemer of the world was born. Help us to dwell with minds alert and loving hearts upon all the precious memories and assurances with which this day is stored.

Fill our thoughts with this marvel of Thy will, that, not by the thunder of Thy majesty in the heavens, nor by any quaking of the earth in Thy descent among us, didst Thou proclaim the fulness of Thine advent to call mankind home to Thee, but by the still small voice of a little child born in an outhouse. Glory be to Thee, O God, that thus we know where Thou choosest most to dwell, even among the humble of heart, and with those who, like Joseph and the blessed Mother of our Lord, seek to fulfil all duties laid upon them, in quiet dependence upon Thee.

We praise Thee for the many radiant attendances of the holy Birth. We thank Thee for the gospel of the shepherds beyond Bethlehem, who first of all mankind received the tidings of Thy love's incarnation. And we pray Thee to grant us grace to be faithful and watchful in our tasks in life, that we too may be quick to receive the heavenly revelations that come upon those who are dutiful and devoted to their daily work.

We thank Thee for the gospel of the fear that filled the shepherds' breasts when glory out of heaven blazed upon them, and for the consolation of the word the angel spake to them. Our minds are awed, O Thou Dweller in the innermost, by the splendour of Thy tabernacle in the heavens, and our hearts cry, What is man that Thou art mindful of him? Comfort us, as were those humble men of old encouraged, with this Christmas message, that in every pious home, where parents abide in love and understanding of each other, and children are welcomed as from Thee, the Source of all love and grace, there dwellest

## The Christian Year

Thou, and the light of their quiet hearth is Thine altar-fire, as blessed as the glory about Thy throne in heaven.

We praise Thee for the gospel of that haste wherewith the shepherds rose to obey Thy herald in the skies and straightway came to Bethlehem to adore the Holy Child. And we pray for a like alacrity, when a heavenly voice within our heart bids us betake ourselves to serve and reverence Christ in every little child, and in all men and women of whom He said, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me.

And, furthermore, we bless Thee for the gospel of their joyous return from Bethlehem, as they went their way glorifying and praising Thee for all the things that they had heard and seen. And we pray that every time we pass from our communion with Thy Son, our Saviour, in home or church or sacrament, we may so speak and act that men may know that we have been with Jesus. And from this festival of Christmas may we pass to the world again with a song in our hearts that shall make music in all we say and do at home, and such a baptism of His child-like spirit within our souls that grace, mercy, and peace may flow from us upon all with whom we have to do. And these our prayers we offer in the name of Thine only-begotten Son, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

# The Christian Year

## CHRISTMAS

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

❶ **bles**sed Lord, Who didst wrap Thy power in the swaddling bands of weakness and lay Thy glory in a manger : grant unto us who celebrate this merry festival of Christmastide that, whether serving Thy creatures in the fields of earth, or tracing Thy glory in the heavens above, we may all hear the celestial music and obey the divine call ; so that whether from far away or near at hand we may arise and hasten to the place where Love has come, and offer there the homage and devotion of our lives.

We thank Thee for the road to Bethlehem, and for all the glad pilgrims who have hastened there. We thank Thee for all the hearts that have grown tender and the eyes that have become bright as the season of goodwill has come round again. We thank Thee that wise men and serving men have alike felt the attraction of the Babe of Bethlehem, and have knelt at that lowly cradle in holy adoration. We bless Thy name for all those who, having seen Thy salvation in Jesus Christ, have been quietly content to leave these scenes of time, and said their *Nunc Dimittis* with something of old Simeon's peace in their hearts.

Grant unto us all this happy Christmas Day to know the rapture of the Holy Mother as she bends over her Babe. Give us the innocent gaiety wherewith the children awake to salute the happy morn. May no unholy thought or wanton act mar the day's rejoicing. Grant that all who keep Christmas may keep Christ and be kept by Him. May none fail to receive Thine unspeakable Gift. May the tree of life be lit with new lights and hung with new offerings. May the wanderer come back to the home circle and the Father's forgiveness. May old enmities be laid aside and ancient feuds forgotten. May the harboured grudge melt from the heart, and the bitter hatred be wiped out in the remembrance of the greater love. May none feel themselves forgotten or uncared for this day. Whatever anxiety may have beset us, whatever burden bent us low,

## The Christian Year

whatever problem perplexed us, whatever sorrow crushed us, whatever sin ensnared us, may we lift up our hearts again as we say to ourselves, He that spared not His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things ?

May Christ be born again in all our hearts this day. Give us a new vision of all that it has meant to the world and to ourselves that the Son of God became man. Endue the Church of Thy Son with a fresh baptism of Thy Holy Spirit, that she may prepare the way for Him among all peoples. May the nations of earth incline more and more to lay the government upon the shoulders of the Prince of Peace. May His Kingdom be extended and His banner be upraised.

O Father, bless us one and all this Christmas Day. We lift our hearts to Thee in grateful praise. Goodness is no name for what Thou hast done for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. We would serve Him only all our days, sure that in His service perfect freedom shall be ours.

# The Christian Year

## CHRISTMAS

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Our Heavenly Father**, Whose holy Child, Christ Jesus, was born among us in a stable and laid within a manger for a crib : forbid that we should be of them, in any wise, who exiled thus the Saviour of the world. We confess that oftentimes there is no room for Him within our hearts, so that we keep Him out of doors. Often the distraction and hurried business of this world so possess our minds that we have barely a thought of Him within us. And other guests are brought within our breast, that leave no room for Him—prides and passions, hatreds and jealousies, evil dreams and purposes, unwholesome desires and hopes, all worldly appetites and lusts, that love the darkness and the twilight and hasten to bar the door against Him. And Thou knowest how we suffer the bleak storms of faithlessness and despair to invade our hearts and to fill us with distrust of Thee, and all the while Christ waits without, ready to enter in with the glow and warmth of His promises and abundant grace. We confess that there are times when we seek to refresh us with the dull wisdom of the worldly wise, as with water caught in broken cisterns ; or we abide alone with our sorrows, and our tears are our meat night and day. And behold Thy Son our Saviour is ever at the door, ready to enter in, to turn the water of earth's poor wisdom into the wine of celestial truth, and to change our tears into the dew of peace and consolation.

Forgive us, O God, our every indifference towards Christ Thy Son, and all our sinful rejection of Him as He waits at the entrance of our hearts ; so that now, with holy shame and reverence, we may have Him come within us, to the perfecting of our Christmas joy.

Furthermore, we entreat Thee that all men everywhere may open hospitable hearts to the meaning and merciful benediction of this glad day. Arrest all who are at enmity with one another, all who entertain wicked devices in their hearts against their fellows, all who rejoice in disorder, all who make profit



## The Christian Year

out of the troubles of others, all who, in their worldly enterprises, are laying up disquietude in their foolish hearts—arrest them with the song the herald angels chanted above Bethlehem, that peace and felicity are the portion of none save those that be of a good and brotherly will. Grant peace in our time, O Lord, and let all the nations that this day assemble at the cradle of Thy Christ advance His Kingdom of fraternity and peace within their borders and in their various dealings with one another. Bless our King and Commonwealth, and so requicken Thy Church in this and in every realm, that the glory of Thy name may be highly exalted everywhere, and the music of the Gospel resound to the earth's remotest bounds.

Fill the lives of little children with happiness to-day ; and increase the number of those who love them generously. Open the eyes of the lonely and sad to behold about them signs of Thy loving presence, and their ears to hear voices out of heaven. Comfort the bereaved with the triumphant music of that great multitude around Thy throne who cry with a loud voice saying, Saved by our God Who sitteth upon the throne and by the Lamb. And unto Thee, both now and evermore, in earth and heaven, be glory and praise, through Him who taught us, as Thy children, thus to pray, *Our Father*.

# The Christian Year

## CHRISTMAS

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Almighty and Everlasting God**, Who at sundry times and in divers manners didst speak unto the fathers by the prophets, we bless Thy Name that now Thou hast spoken unto us by a Son—a Son Whom Thou hast appointed heir of all things, as it was by Him that Thou didst create the world. We worship in holy adoration as we remember that He Who, reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character, sustains the universe with the word of His power, took not on Him the form of angels when He came to this world, but was made in the likeness of men.

We mingle myrrh with our frankincense, sorrow of heart with our prayers, as we remember our disobedience and shortcomings. We have crowded Him out of our lives Who should have been King. We have left Him the outskirts of our time and let Him take His chance in our inhospitable hearts. We have said, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? and would not take the trouble to come and see. We have been insensible to the need of travailing womanhood and been unmoved by the divinity of motherhood. We have not seen the beauty of chivalrous manhood in the toil of strong men who kept the home. We have not shared the anxiety of wayfarers without shelter and the great mass of humankind plodding along in obedience to inexorable laws.

But Love came down at Christmas, and has His dwelling among men, and is able to make all grace abound towards us, that we, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work. Still runs the heavy writ that all the world shall be taxed. And every man goes unto his own place to pay the price. Each heart knoweth its own heaviness. But in the midnight sky the angels are singing, for God has decreed that all the world shall be blessed in Him, all nations shall call Him blessed Who cometh in the Name of the Lord for our salvation. Therefore will we lift up our hearts unto the Lord our God Who hath done wondrous things for us, whereof we

## The Christian Year

are glad. Therefore will we call upon Him as long as we live, who hath remembered us in our low estate and laid help upon One Who is mighty to save.

O loving Father, to the cradle of Whose incarnate Son they came from far with their rich gifts, we would humbly and hopefully intercede at this time for all the family of mankind throughout the world. For thine ancient people, whose is the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises ; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all, God blessed for ever. Our heart's desire and our supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved. With their great zeal for God, to which we all are debtors, may they too come to the Christmas joy, and find that Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one that believeth.

For all who have seen His star in the east, that they may come to the brightness of His rising. For all our kinsfolk who are absent at this time from the family gatherings. For all who keep Christmas in strange surroundings and with nothing of the old, helpful associations, that they may know that the Father seeth them afar off and is running to them now. For all whose too hard hearts have been visited this day with an unaccustomed tenderness, that they may open the door and let the dear Christ in.

So may we all come home at Christmas ; and when all our wanderings are over, do Thou of Thy great mercy bring us in, that we may see Him Whom having not seen we love. In Whose Name we pray the children's prayer : *Our Father*.

# The Christian Year

## EPIPHANY

**Almighty God.** Whose Son, Christ Jesus, is the bright and morning Star of Thy revelation to mankind : we recall, this day, with joy and thanksgiving, the pilgrimage of those wise men that came from the east afar to the cradle of the Holy Child. And we pray that all learning and wisdom among us likewise may be dedicated to Him Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Thou art the fountain of all light and inspiration. In the mind of man Thou hast kindled a lamp whereby he is enabled to trace Thy bright designs among the stars and in the depths of earth. From Thee have appeared among us those noble men and women who, by their wisdom and discoveries, have led us within the mystery and glory of creation, and opened our eyes to see the wonders of Thy will and the splendour of Thy purposes.

We praise Thee for all the achievements of science in our time. Forbid that these should be turned in any way to work the destruction of aught that is precious to Thee, or to bring confusion upon Thy Kingdom of peace and goodwill among men. Suffer us not, in our wisdom, to fall into pride and self-conceit, as though of ourselves, and for our own selfish ends, we have attained the measure of learning that has been granted us. Teach us that it is to them that study the marvels of Thy handiwork in the spirit of a little child, Thou art ready to reveal the secrets of Thy mind and heart therein. And grant us to know that more blessed in Thy sight than the loftiest wisdom of the wise is that devotion to Thy will and counsel, in purity of heart, in obedience, and in charity, which the wise men from the East with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, brought to Thy Son, our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto His God and Father ; to Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever.

### *Invocation*

**Almighty God**, Fountain of Wisdom and Inspirer of the hearts of men, Whose Son as on this day did enter the city in such fashion that every heart was stirred : we bring our palms and our praises ; do Thou grant us Thy peace. Help us to cast out of the temple of our hearts everything which in our moments of clear and solemn vision we know ought not to be there. And do Thou dwell in our minds as truth, in our hearts as charity, in our wills as strength, and nevermore leave Thy temple.

Through Him Who wept over but rode into the city as on this day.

Almighty God, King of kings, and Lord of lords, Whose Son, Christ Jesus, was anointed of Thee to bring salvation unto mankind and to establish Thy Kingdom in righteousness and peace : we rejoice in the glory of that day wherein He ascended up to Zion in the royal state of Thy suffering servant proclaimed of old time by Thy prophets. Gather us about His path ; make glad our hearts to behold Him, and fill our souls with reverence and awe. As His disciples blessed His coming and spread their garments in the way, and palms before Him as He went, so make us ready to lay at His feet all we have and are, and to bless Him that cometh in the name of the Lord.

And grant that, having confessed and worshipped Him on earth, we may be of that glorious multitude in heaven who bear the palm of victory, and sing aloud that He is Lord of heaven and earth who reigneth for ever and ever.



# The Christian Year

## PALM SUNDAY

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

○ **Lord our God**, how shall we praise aright the infinite goodness Whose passion path we desire to follow once again ? Blessed be Thy glorious name that Thou didst find a ransom for our race. Blessed be He Who, knowing all things which should befall Him there, set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem. We may not know, we cannot tell the agony and soul travail of those awful days. But with child-like hearts would we sing aloud His praises and raise our joyful shouts. Never may we hold our peace who have seen Him come. Through court and market-place and temple as ever on He rides, may we run to tell aloud the news. From the tall trees would we cut down the symbols of our earthly glory and lay them in the dust before His feet. Each covering of pride would we strip off that He may be lifted high for all to see, Who comes the Prince of Peace.

From vainglorious show of leaves, where there is no fruit meet for repentance, do Thou deliver us, that we shrivel not before the curse of wrath divine. From all unholy traffickings in things of shame ; from driving our own purposes through the appointment of God Most High ; from greed and selfish gain and all hypocrisy, do Thou deliver us. Suffer us not to carry on worldly pursuits under cover of divine pretensions, nor to turn the house of prayer into a den of thieves.

Almighty God, Whose blessed Son Jesus Christ did as at this season utter the great parables of watchfulness and faithfulness and judgment to come, grant us grace that we may lay His words to heart. While we render to the State our due support and service, suffer us not to forget the claims of God and of His Church. Give us a portion of the same spirit of meekness with great boldness which withstood evil and prejudice to its face, though death was shadowing the One Who spoke.

Father of all, Whose Son, our Lord, withdrew from the strife of tongues to the peace and seclusion of Bethany that He might prepare Himself for all that lay before Him : give us



## The Christian Year

many homes of quiet prayer and simple piety, where hunted souls may find a sweet retreat, a shelter from the storm, a covert from the tempest. Where men and women pray, there may the good Lord come ; and where He comes there may He find loyalty and bring peace.

O steadfast Christ, Who didst graciously permit those who loved Thee well to make ready for the feast of love, may we show others the place where Thou mayest be found by our willingness to serve Thee in the humblest ways and lowliest offices. O Thou Who didst rise from supper to serve, knowing whence Thou didst come and whither went, may we be so sure of our high calling in Thee that no pride shall hold us back from menial tasks, if so Thy will be done and Thy name be glorified.

O Thou Who didst sing the Paschal psalm, grant us never to be so low of spirit that no praise shall issue from our closed mouth and silent tongue. But though in the world we have tribulation, suffer us ever to enjoy the fellowship of Him Who cried Good cheer ! to those His comrades for whose sake He had overcome the world, and for whose salvation He was about to conquer death. Thus abiding in the vine may we bear fruit, that the Husbandman may be glorified.

# The Christian Year

## PALM SUNDAY

### *Thanksgiving and Intercession*

**Almighty God**, our Heavenly King, we laud and magnify Thy great and glorious name this day, for all the wondrous deeds and words of Him, Thy Son and Israel's Messiah, from the day He entered the holy city by the path of palms to the day on which He carried off the victor's crown on Calvary.

We rejoice in His triumphant entry within Jerusalem ; and we pray most urgently for Thine invasion of all our cities, and of all places and territories within this realm, that the king and all magistrates and leaders of the people, all traders and husbandmen, all labourers in towns, rangers on the hills and sailor-men, of every calling and degree, may be united in the one loyalty to that heavenly Prince Who turned kingship into service and the labourer's toil into the faithful task of priests and kings unto God, and may join the procession everywhere of their High King and Chief Priest, Jesus Christ Thy Son.

We remember His cleansing of the Temple, His Father's house ; and we pray that Thy Church in every land may be purged of all worldliness, divorced from every alliance with Mammon, awakened to the glory of her calling, delivered from every hesitancy and fear, and issue to the conflict, clear as the sun, fair as the moon, and mighty as an army with banners.

We remember His dealings and debates with all sorts and conditions of men, that even at the eleventh hour they might know how near their salvation was and how soon the hour of doom would strike. And we pray that all who have the pride of the Pharisee in their breast may be put to shame and renewed in simplicity of faith and the common sense of righteousness. And we pray that all who are holden of the spirit of the Sadducee may be delivered from the thralldom of the things that perish, and, beholding the things that are unseen, receive eternal life. And we pray that all that are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven may be made bold to take the one step that brings them in. And we pray that all little children may be gathered with songs about the feet of their heavenly Friend, that all widows,

## The Christian Year

the bereaved, the lonely, and the sad, may feel that His eyes are ever on them. And we pray that all that are rich may count it their greatest treasure to be as stewards of Thine in all they possess, and that all princes and governors may evermore prefer the Crucified set free to the enthronement of Barabbas.

We remember the coming of the Greeks to Christ Thy Son ; and we pray that all art and letters, music and journalism, may be baptized of Him Whose spirit is the breath of beauty and wisdom.

We remember the withering of the fig-tree at His word ; and we pray that all His disciples may be delivered from the woeful judgment that waits on those who cry Lord, Lord, but do not Thy will, making a show of leaf and blossom, but bringing not forth fruit.

O God, Whom it pleased to give Thy Son's body to be broken and His blood to be shed for the delivery of mankind from death and hell, we remember with unutterable gratitude His arraying of the blessed sacrament of His most precious body and blood ; and we pray that we and all His disciples may so feed on Him that is the living Bread, that all may become embodied in His deathless life and, at the last, see Him face to face in the glory of heaven, where with all the host of the redeemed we shall cry aloud in the great hosanna, Saved by our God that sitteth upon the throne and by the Lamb !

# The Christian Year

## PALM SUNDAY

### *Confession and Supplication*

Ⓞ **Lord our God**, Whose Son this day did ascend to Zion's city heralded by them that cried Hosanna, we would open wide to Thee the gates of our life, its every sanctuary and recess, and invite Thee to enter in. Do Thou make alliance with us against all that is evil and wayward in our hearts, and overcome in us whatever sin besetteth us. Extend Thy kingly rule through all the concerns and enterprises of our life—the work of our hands and the passages of our feet, the activity of our minds, and the resolves and broodings of our hearts, the ambitions we cherish in our daily business and all we hope to be or gain, our intercourse with our friends, our neighbours, and all with whom we have to do, the duties we owe in gift and toil for the furtherance of Thy Kingdom in this place and a-field.

O Thou King of love, Redeemer and Governor of our souls, Who on this day passed within the Temple and looked round upon all things there, look upon us in our unworthiness and sin, and, as by the aid of the Holy Spirit we do sincerely repent of these, let forgiveness descend upon us, even though it fall with pain upon us as of a lash in Thy just hands.

Help us to cast forth from our life everything which in this hour of vision and communion with Thee we clearly see ought not to be there, every desire and lingering evil, all tempers and intentions which we know cannot withstand the gaze of Thy purity and Thy loving hopes for us. Give us power to arrest in Thy name everything that would bring athwart our souls the allurements of the world and all that would make a convenience or barter of religion.

Look upon us in those things wherein we are unfruitful trees of Thy planting, and spare us, O Lord, that we may yet show forth in our daily life, faithfulness, zeal, and all dutiful devotion to Thy purposes concerning us.

Look upon us in all wherein we take much joy, and forbid we should delight ourselves in anything we cannot assemble about Thy feet with songs of gratitude and praise. Look upon

## The Christian Year

us in our happiness and in our sorrow, in success and disappointment, in brightness and gloom, in labour and rest, and help us unwaveringly to believe that they who follow Thee and follow on, shall pass from glory unto glory, even though the advancement be by a cross that raiseth them, as it raised Thee to Thy victory and throne.

O King of life, who knowest the weaknesses which we are slow to confess even to ourselves, take from us, we beseech Thee, the faithless mind that would shrink from the way by which Thou leadest, and that would draw back from the harder paths of a dutiful life. Help us as Thy disciples, Thou Who art our guide and the captain of our salvation, to set our face steadfastly to go to our Jerusalem, prepared to meet all the counsels of the Father's will, and to be obedient even unto death, seeking only for strength to glorify whatever cross in Thy heavenly will and purpose is laid upon us.

# The Christian Year

## PALM SUNDAY

### *Confession and Intercession*

○ GOD, most just and holy, righteous and true in all Thy ways, we remember with shame how fickle was their faith who began the week with Hosanna ! and ended it with Crucify ! And we, too, O Lord, are so easily swept by transient emotions which bear no fruit and share no hardship. We, too, shout with the applauding throng, and know no constancy of conviction when they say, Crucify. One day we offer a crown ; the next we bring a cross. One day we cry, Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord ; the next we affirm, I know not the Man.

So does Thy conquest tarry and Thy Kingdom halt. And yet when we meet Thee again in the quiet uplands of the spirit and amid the hills of home, we are fain to say, Lord Thou knowest all things ; Thou knowest our love. Give us boldness and conviction we entreat. May others take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. They have seen us in the garden : may they find us in the judgment hall. They question Thee of Thy disciples, Lord ; and Thou dost not disown us, unvaliant though we be.

Almighty God, Who knowest the weaknesses which we are slow to confess even to ourselves, take from us, we beseech Thee, the faithless mind that would shrink from the way by which Thou ledest, and draw back from the harder paths of a dutiful life. As disciples of the Man of Sorrows, may we steadfastly set our face to go to our Jerusalem, prepared to meet all the counsels of Thy will, and to be obedient even unto death, seeking only for strength to glorify the cross Thou layest upon us.

And for the great world of men we intercede. For those who would destroy Thy gracious influence in the world, that they may be forgiven if they know not what they do. That Thou wouldest remember in Thy kingdom all who have paid the penalty of their sins and wrongdoings and who earnestly repent and turn to seek Thy face.

For those who have known no splendid entrances of the



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enthroned Christ, nor recognized Him when He rides into their midst. For those in whom the innocent laughter of children at their play wakens no deeper echoes in their own breasts. For those who are stone-dumb when all the world is shouting, Come. For those who curl the lip and raise the brow at the glad exultations of redeemed men. For those who wrap themselves the tighter in their pride or selfishness when Christ is going by proclaimed by the lips of men. For such as even in the House of Prayer have no thoughts save for the money-changers' tables. For those who have felt the sting and lash of Christ's knotted scourge, that they may kiss the rod. For those who see His flashing eye and mark His righteous wrath, that they may repent ere yet it be too late, and He has gone.

O patient Christ, waiting and weeping still, crying, If thou hadst known ! We do know. Thou, O Christ, art all I want, each honest heart replies. Take us out with Thee to Bethany, that there beholding the love that serves, and the piety that sits at Thy feet, and the life Thou hast restored, we too of human kind may have Thee to our homes and in our hearts, whence none shall ever take Thee more.

So when the palms have withered, and the shouts have died, and the streets are empty, we shall surround the throne with palm in hand, and sing the new song, and walk the golden streets, where faith is lost in sight, and Love is King.

# The Christian Year

## GOOD FRIDAY

### *First Prayer*

☉ **GOD**, Whose Son did hang and die upon the Tree this day to wash us from our sins in the stream of His blood, and to quicken us from the doom of hell by His awful death : smite us with horror of this dread deed, purge us with fear, and awaken a speechless wonder within us at the price wherewith we have been restored to Thee.

O blessed Saviour, whose side was pierced by the spear, even so let our very heart be opened to Thee by the thrust of that fierce love Thou bearest us, that we may fall at Thy feet, dead evermore to sin. Make us to rejoice whenever remorse pricks us within by its sharp point, and glad when we are pierced with sorrow for sin ; for then we know that there is still room within our heart for Thee.

O blessed Saviour, Whose head was tortured with the thorny crown—that we might wear the halo of a righteousness not our own, but Thine: constrain Thou, as with thorns, every vicious and worldly thought within our minds, and make every unclean imagination and desire a torment unto us.

O blessed Saviour, through whose hands and feet great nails were driven, transfix and confirm our hands in the work to which Thou didst yield Thy hands, and direct our steps in the course which Thy feet traversed. However dolorous our pathway be with what seems failure, lonely and deserted, burdensome and dark, bid us know that if we are Thine, we are partakers of Thy saving sorrows. Though a cross seem to be the climax of all our endeavour, bid us believe, simply and faithfully, that if we share Thy thorny crown, Thy strife and cross, ours shall yet be the perfect life, and ours the victory.

## GOOD FRIDAY

### *Second Prayer*

**Blessed Saviour,** Who dost regard us from Thy Cross this day with so infinite a love and pity, how often have we forsaken Thee, despite our brave and frequent vow that echoed Peter's boast, Though all forsake Thee, yet will not I ! So often have we fled away, or hung back on the edge of the crowd, or sat at alien fires, keeping silence when we should have spoken, or uttering disloyalty when we spake. O give us Peter's tears, his purging sorrow, and strengthen us to stand fast in all trials and temptations.

When our strength of body or of spirit falters, uphold and fortify us. When the brutal weight of worldliness about us makes religion seem so frail and inconsequent a thing, convince us anew that it is the weak things of God that shall ever confound the strong, and so we shall be brave again. When pleasure and the pomps of earth afflict us with diffidence as we struggle along the path of simplicity, purity, and gladness, forbid that we should falter on the steep ascent. When light companions would wile us from Thy service, or prosperous worldlings treat us with smiling pity, or the insidious fashions of pagan folk allure us, or the gay votaries of Mammon entice our souls, lift up as on a standard the perfect blessedness of Thy life, though frugal fare and a peasant's robe were Thy portion, the desertion of friends, Gethsemane and the bloody Tree ; and when Thou beholdest us waver, recall us with the look that shamed and strengthened Peter's broken heart ; nor for fear or favour suffer us to fall.

# The Christian Year

## GOOD FRIDAY

### *First Prayer*

○ **Father**, to Whom Jesus prayed beneath the olives, how shall we come before Thee this day ? What shall we say when we remember Him Who for our sakes was dumb and opened not His mouth ? What shall we render, who have nothing in our hand to bring ? We will take the cup of salvation with a new wonder and astonishment. To that Cross will we cling through time and through eternity.

O righteous Father, who of us can understand his errors ? Who can fathom the mystery of iniquity ? But we gaze and gaze on Him Who paid the price of sin. We believe, and we will die believing, that it was for us He hung and suffered there. We see Him in the Upper Room, where He has girt Himself with the towel of service. We watch Him break the bread, and say, Take, eat. We see Him take the cup ; we mark the love and pity in His eyes as He whispers, Drink ye all of it. We see all amazed how Love loves to the uttermost, and will not shrink from all that love implies. We see once again the door that opens into the dark night, and the one who goes out alone, and pray, Lord, may it never be I. We follow across the brook into the garden, and ask that we may be given strength to watch to the end, whatever weakness of the flesh overtake us. May He never come and find us sleeping when He needs our company and seeks our help. We hear the shouting through the trees of those who come not to save, but to kill and to destroy ; and they take away the Good Shepherd Who came that we might have life, and that we might have it abundantly. We see Him standing patient through the long night, His blessed face slavered with the spittle of oathing men. We close our ears and turn away our eyes while they scourge His sacred body. We hear the voices of passion and greed shouting for Barabbas and condemning the Lord's Anointed. We go with that slow-moving procession behind the Man Who staggers under that cruel weight of wood. We see how women weep when Love is done to death. We hear Him cry, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. We see the Cross uplifted on that green hill, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. It was for us. He loved me, and gave Himself for me.

## GOOD FRIDAY

### *Second Prayer*

**Almighty God**, our Father in heaven, grant that Thy Son this day may see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

He prays, *Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do.* May all who have sinned in ignorance, or are this day sincerely sorry for their sins, by Thy merciful clemency and the atoning blood which this day was shed for sins, be granted pardon and amendment of life.

He says to the Penitent Sinner, suffering in his body by His side for the wrongs done in the flesh, *Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise.* Grant unto all who have sinned and suffered that they may know that they are not beyond the reach of the love of Jesus : and may all who are dying be assured of life with Him beyond the grave.

He says, *Woman, behold thy Son !* And to His beloved friend, *Behold thy mother !* May all the bands of affection and ties of friendship be made stronger and sweeter through Him Who in His mortal agony was not forgetful that we need one another's love.

O Father, into Whose ears there came that cry, *My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me ?* may none other of the children of men ever feel that they are forsaken of Thee, or shut out from Thy love, or the victims of a cruel delusion and a heartless lie.

He cries, *I thirst !* May Thy blessing rest upon all who give cups of cold water to others because they belong to Christ.

He cries, *It is finished.* Hasten, we beseech Thee, the coming of the end when He shall take unto Him His great power and reign, and the last enemy shall be destroyed.

He sighs, *Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.* In life and in death would we commend ourselves and all whom we love into that same safe keeping, knowing Whom we have believed, and being persuaded that Thou art able to keep that which we have committed unto Thee against the day of His appearing.

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## EASTER DAY

### *Call to Worship*

**A little while**, and ye shall not see Me : and again a little while, and ye shall see Me. Christ is risen ; He is risen indeed. Because He lives we shall live also.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

The Lord is risen indeed : Hallelujah. I am He that liveth, and was dead, saith the Lord ; and, behold, I am alive again for evermore. Hallulejah.

This is the day which the Lord hath made ; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Christ is risen ; He is risen indeed. Because He lives, we shall live also. After two days will the Lord revive us ; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight.



## EASTER DAY

### *Invocation*

**Almighty God**, our Heavenly Father, Who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep : aid us now, we beseech Thee, by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may worthily celebrate His glorious Resurrection. Deliver us from all worldly thoughts and doubts, and help us to rise above all our sorrows and cares, so that we may truly and gladly worship Thee, and, when we leave Thy House, be enlightened, comforted, and fortified, to live a life of joyful trust, to love Thee more fervently, and more faithfully to serve Thee.

And this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with Thee, the Father, and the Holy Spirit be ascribed all might, majesty, dominion and power, world without end.

O God, Who hast bestowed upon us the Paschal grace, let Thy heavenly gift accompany Thy people ; that what is now the cause of their delight in time, may hereafter be their joy throughout eternity.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to preserve with watchful love those whom Thou hast cleansed ; that those who have been redeemed by Thy Passion may rejoice in Thy Resurrection.

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## EASTER DAY

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

**WE** give Thee Thanks, our God and Father, for all the holy rapture of this day, for the deep joy that abounds, and for springtime in the soul of man. We praise Thy Name that on this day Christ rose victorious over sin and the grave ; that Love could not die, nor know defeat, nor lie in thralldom. We praise Thy Name that when He came again He sought out those who needed Him most, and missed Him most, and longed for His appearing. We rejoice that, contrary to all hopes, and against the seeming face of things, in a world of blood and iron the victory remained with Love.

We give Thee such thanks as we can bring, that Thou hast delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of Thy dear Son : that we can look quietly into every grave and say, Not here, for he is risen. Thou hast given us the assurance that our labour is not in vain in the Lord, so that we may work with nought to mock our toil. Thou hast shown us through the triumph of this day that we may build with love for foundation, the height of heaven for roof, and the stretch of eternity for outlook. Thou hast set our feet upon a rock, and established our goings. Therefore will we give praise unto Thee with our whole heart.

Blessed Christ, Who on this glad and memorable day didst first fulfil the promise of Thy return to dwell for ever with Thine own, revealing Thyself as alive to those who were mourning Thee as dead, standing in the midst when the doors were shut for fear, consenting to those who contrained Thee to abide for the day was far spent: come to us now through barring doubts and doors that would stay Thy coming. Jesus, stand among us in Thy risen power ; find the secret way to all our hearts, lift those pierced hands in benediction over us ; breathe on every one the peace which Thou alone canst give.

May Thy whole Church feel the quickening power of this day of her Lord's triumph. May she too lay by for ever the napkin that has been about her head, keeping her eyes from

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seeing where her risen Lord leads on. May she leave in the grave this day all that has impeded her progress and bound her too closely to death and decay. Fill her with a holy daring and a divine rashness.

We pray for all who have been lying in lame impotence at the beautiful gate of the temple, that they may receive strength, and rise on leaping limbs to joy and service. Deliver us from an unholy trust in silver and gold, and give us a new experience of the mighty Name of Jesus.

May those who have gone back in wistful memory to days of long ago in Galilee find that the risen Christ has gone before them there. May they discover with an access of holy joy that He dwells not only in tender memories, but in present experiences of grace ; that He is Himself yesterday and to-day and all the days. May those who have signally sinned know that they are specially sought by Him Who said, Go, tell My disciples and Peter. Wipe the mist from Mary's eyes, that she may know that none can take away her Lord Who calls her once again by the familiar name.

O God of Easter Who hast scattered Thy flowers in the fields, shed abroad Thy love in all our hearts.

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## EASTER DAY

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

**Almighty God**, Who as on this day didst raise from the dead Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, unite our hearts with all throughout the world who call upon His Name, to praise and magnify Thy goodness and Thy power, Who gavest Him to be the Resurrection and the Life. Thanks be unto Thee, O God, for Him Whom we now see crowned with glory and honour, exalted to Thy right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour.

Fill our hearts, O God, with the radiant joy of this great Day. Let the gospel of our Saviour's triumph and the assurance of His abiding presence with His disciples enlighten us in our every loneliness and gloom, and dispel our fear of death.

When we stand beside the graves of our departed, grant that we may hear the voice that spake to the women at the sepulchre of Christ, and believe that our dear ones are not thus entombed ; they are risen indeed, for their souls were His in the days of their flesh and did pass immediately to glory, even as He promised when He said, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am there ye may be also.

When we count ourselves deserted and forlorn, and we no longer behold the familiar tokens of Thy presence, sustain us with patience, that, as we remain steadfast in hope, we may be ready to catch again, in unlooked-for revelations, Thy voice of love and grace, even as Mary found in an unfamiliar face the radiance of communion she had thought was quenched for ever.

When the realm of sense weighs heavily upon our souls, and the things that are invisible seem so frail and fugitive in contrast with this ponderable world, and our faith in truth and goodness falters, and our minds crave for signs that our hands can handle and proofs that our eyes can see, bring us within that room where Thomas doubted, and renew to us the word Christ spake to him, Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. Instruct us, O Lord, in this Thy holy oracle, that the natural man receiveth not the things of Thy Spirit, neither knoweth them, for they are spiritually discerned.

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When despair has fallen on our hopes and purposes in life, and we weary of the struggle, thinking that Thou hast quite forsaken us and that nothing now availeth, inspire us with that vigorous resolve which took Thy servant Peter to his boats again, as to one duty that could still be done, so that, as we toil on, albeit with wistful hearts, we may lift our eyes and see Christ at hand and pass to Him to be nourished by His grace.

Throughout our pilgrimage, O Lord, help us to keep alive within our breast the promises of Him Who died for us, daily to search the Scriptures wherein we have the treasury of eternal life, and to be kindly and hospitable to all wayfarers with us on the road of life, so that there may be revealed to us in every common room the provision of our Saviour's very presence, and that we may look to find in all men the lingering spirit of Thy Son.

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## EASTER DAY

### *Confession and Intercession*

○ **patient Lord**, Whose Easter Day was sullied by the lips of men who went through the city telling lies for hire, we grieve that even this day must we entreat Thy forgiveness for all that is false and wrong in our lives. We have forsaken Thee and fled in shameful speed when men have used Thee rudely. We have warmed ourselves at the fires of Thine enemies, and have roughly denied that we had ever been in the garden with Thee. We have followed Thee afar off, and have questioned what this rising from the dead should mean. We have lain on in prayerless beds on this day when Thou didst rise from the narrow grave for us. With unkindled spirits and unhasting feet we have come into this house of prayer as if no Easter flush had ever lit the sky. And we hear Thy deep, sad tones say, How is it that ye do not understand?

Come to us, our Lord, who cannot attain to Thee. Speak to us who are hushed into silence by very shame. Renew in us the joy and certainty of Easter until, ere this day has fled, we too shall haste to bring the others word. Whether we weep alone in solitary places, or crowd with equally perplexed men in herding company, or walk away from it all with one companion for the way whom we can trust and to whom we may unburden, or run in a sweat of doubt and anxiety with the fishermen, vouchsafe unto each of us according to his peculiar need and in his present circumstance some token of Thy resurrection power.

Be with all who have heard the joyful sound, and are seeking to tell it out in all the tongues of earth. Though men may mock, may these not falter in their testimony. "This Jesus did God raise up." On that rock may all the succeeding waves of unbelief be broken. Seeing the man made whole standing before them, may the careless and the hostile be bound to take knowledge that this is the Lord's doing. We pray for all who suffer for their faith or in the discharge of their mission. Grant to Thy servants to speak Thy word with all boldness, while



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Thou stretchest forth Thy hand to heal. May signs and wonders be done this day through the name of thy holy Servant Jesus. May every meeting-place of Thy saints this day be shaken with the surge of the Holy Spirit, and may the word be spoken with great boldness.

Hear our fervent prayers for our brethren in every land. For those who have gone across the seas to make a living, that they may lay hold on life. For little children who are glad this day, but know not altogether Who has made them so. For those who wrestle with ancient doubts and persistent sins. For those who would be pure, but cannot break with secret lusts. For all who have parted with their peace of conscience and their integrity of heart. For all who are in any shameful thralldom, bound, who should conquer, slaves, who should be free. Let the year of the Lord's release be proclaimed for all such this day.

And, Father in heaven, Who dost keep for us our beloved who are hidden for a while in the darkness of death, renew our fellowship with them on this day which set them free. Bring them very close to us now as we reach out to them and Thee in the silence. . . . Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to us ; and they have kept Thy word. Art Thou not also keeping them according to Thy faithful promise ? This is their Easter and ours. Because Christ lives, they live also. Until the day dawns, grant us for their sakes brave hearts and constant spirits. And hear us while we pray, *Our Father*.

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## EASTER DAY

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Almighty God**, Who dost encompass us this day with the radiance of Thy Son's most glorious Resurrection, enable us so to open our hearts and consciences to Thee, that the beams of His presence may penetrate our most secret thoughts and bring to light all within us that offends Thee, so that we may be sincerely ashamed of our disloyalties and made clean from guilt and sin.

We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us : that we may truly rise from the grave of our sins ; that we may conquer our evil desires ; that we may grow in knowledge and love of Thy holy teaching ; that we may serve Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life ; that we may not seek after things on earth, to give our hearts unto them, but after things in heaven, even those incorruptible treasures of truth and goodness and beauty which are Thy very life and spirit ; that our sorrows may, like the sorrows of Thy Son, one day be turned into eternal joy ; that the grave may have no power to retain us when we come to die, but that we may certainly pass from the dissolution of this body to Thy loving presence in the heavenly realm ; that when Christ Thy Son, Who is our Life, shall appear, we may also appear with Him in glory everlasting.

Almighty God, we do now with sincere and hospitable hearts beseech Thee to shed abroad in all the world the glory of Him Who rose in the splendour of His divine life above death and the grave, and will come again to be the Judge of all the earth. Unfold to all careless and darkened minds the vision of Him Who poured on earth for their salvation His most precious blood, and still pursues in heaven and earth His mighty plan of restoration and peace. Inspire Thy Church to proclaim with urgency and love the gospel of the travail and patience of Thy Son, and to warn the world that even that so great a mercy and forbearance hath an end.

Revive among us that glorious truth which made Thy Church invincible of old, that therein as His Body, Christ

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tabernacles in the earth, and that the humblest member thereof is of Christ as is a branch within the life and fruitfulness of the vine ; so that the whole company of His disciples may be quickened and aroused to their responsibility as fellow-labourers in His redeeming truth and service.

We pray for our native land and Empire, that the radiance of Him Who is the Sun of Righteousness may never fade from the hearts of our people, but enlighten all consciences, and illuminate our legislatures and all who lead and serve in the realms of politics, of science and art, of trade and commerce, to the end that the sovereignty of Thy will may be sought and obeyed in all we contribute to the wealth of nations and to the federation of the world in brotherhood and peace.

We entreat Thee on behalf of all upon whom the night of sorrow has fallen, and of those assailed by trouble or any terror ; that by the power of our risen Lord they may defy all dangers and be made more than conquerors over their fears and woes. Especially do we pray for those who sojourn in the valley of death and bereavement ; that they be no more inconsolable as they stand this day by the empty grave of Him Who in His victory brings with Him all who fall asleep in Him. Open our eyes to behold that white array of the redeemed in the blissful seats of everlasting day, who serve Thee for ever amidst the glories of the sky ; and teach us even here on earth the song they sing, to the honour of Thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who hath taught us thus to pray, *Our Father*.

# The Christian Year

## WHITSUNDAY

### *Call to Worship*

**It shall come** to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh. Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off.

Jesus said : I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever : even the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not neither knoweth Him. But ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

When He ascended on high He gave gifts unto men. God hath not given unto us the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sober mind.

The promise is unto you and to your children, and to as many as the Lord our God shall call. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth.

## WHITSUNDAY

### *Invocation*

**Almighty God**, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who by Thy Holy Spirit dost enlighten, bless, and sanctify the hearts that seek Thee : pour forth upon us and Thy whole Church this day the blessing and power of Pentecost. Look upon us who are assembled with one heart and mind to worship Thee, and renew to us the baptism of inspiration and grace that came upon Thy servants in the upper room of old. So fill us with Thy Spirit, that, when we go forth to the world again, the words of our mouth, and the fervour of our service, and our courage to testify for Thee, may be manifest among men, that Thy Name, O Heavenly Father, may be widely glorified : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, Who by the mystery of this day's festival dost sanctify Thy universal Church in every race and nation, shed abroad throughout the whole world the gift of the Holy Spirit ; that the work wrought by divine goodness at the first preaching of the Gospel may now also be extended among believing hearts ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# The Christian Year

## WHITSUNDAY

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

**Almighty God**, Whose Spirit so brooded at the first upon the formless void that all things were created that were made : we praise and magnify Thy Name for that creative descent and operation of His power when at Pentecost Thy Church was inspired to begin with Thee the renewal of the world through the finished work and abiding presence of Jesus Christ Thy Son.

We thank Thee that Thou hast poured out Thy Spirit upon the Church, and that Thou hast set her as a light to shine in dark places, and as a lamp to guide the steps of the weary and wandering unto Thee. We praise Thee, Who art the inspirer of prophets and apostles and of every true and good thought and feeling in all men, that Thou hast given so liberally of Thy Spirit that we have never been left without many and good teachers and leaders of their brethren in every generation. And we pray Thee so to pour out the same Spirit on us, that we may have a right judgment in all things, and that love and goodness and all the fruits of righteousness may abound in the lives of Thy Church and people, to Thy praise and glory.

We praise Thee for that diversity of gifts wherewith Thy Spirit endows the minds and souls of them that are sanctified ; and we beseech Thee to give us all the same spirit, that with one heart and one mind we may glorify Thee, speaking the truth in love, filling our lives with good deeds and faithful affections, and abiding steadfastly in Christ Jesus as branches within the tree of life.

O Thou Who hast said, I am the vine, ye are the branches, help us so to abide in Thee that we shall bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. Enrich us with Thy Spirit that we may adore Thee as we ought and show forth to others that perfect *love* which is very patient, that knows no jealousy, but is gladdened by goodness, is always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, and is ever hopeful. Thus enable us in all the relationships of life to bear ourselves with *kindliness* and *good temper*,



## The Christian Year

and with *gentleness* to live at peace with all men, as much as lieth in us. Increase within us the grace of *generosity*, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive, ready to encourage others in their efforts to serve Thee by the talents bestowed upon them, and eager to yield to those who are nearer to truth and the vision of what is wise and dutiful than we know ourselves to be. And enlarge our hearts with that spirit of liberality which gives readily and quickly to causes that cry with Thy voice to our consciences. Protect us against all specious arguments of greed and every selfishness within us ; and so establish us in *self-control*, by the gracious might of Thy guiding hand upon us, that we may walk steadfastly and unwavering amid the trials and temptations of this world, and manifest in all things that *fidelity* of mind and purpose which Thou dost at the last crown with this most blessed word, Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the *joy* of thy Lord.

# The Christian Year

## WHITSUNDAY

### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

○ GOD, Who at this time didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of Thy Holy Spirit ; grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort.

We bless Thy name that when our triumphant Lord ascended on high He received gifts for men, even for the rebellious, so that the Lord the Holy Spirit might dwell among us. We thank Thee for the perpetual manifestations of His presence in the Church and in the world. We thank Thee that like God's blowing wind His gracious influence is manifested now here, now there, so that none can stay His power or chart His goings. We rejoice in all whom He has inspired to create beautiful things, to plan glorious things, and to carry out noble things and right. We thank Thee for all who, bending to His breath, have wrought out their inspiration in abiding form. For all great architecture, art, music, crafts, poetry, and prose. Especially do we praise Thee for those who have enriched the world in their service of the Church. We thank Thee that still chaos to form and order moves beneath the Spirit's brooding care ; that truth is proclaimed in ever new and fresh and vital tones as He giveth utterance.

And we pray Thee of Thy mercy that we may never quench His glow within our own hearts or in the life of the Church. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from us, O Lord our God, because of our great and manifold sins. Let us not sin the sin unto death, so that for evermore our souls should be unlit by Thy burning lamp. But rather may Thy perpetual grace be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven, moving in urgent procession from the Father of spirits. May His great gifts increase and multiply among all who pray in His name. May the love, and joy, and peace, and long-suffering, and kindness, and goodness, and faithfulness, and meekness, and self-control, which live above the law in realms of grace, grow abundantly on our tree of life as moved by the Spirit we sway in motion with Thy will.

## The Christian Year

O Dove of the divine peace, alighting so gently and graciously in welcoming hearts, but spreading Thy hasty wing where noisome sin intrudes to mar the harmony of hearts at one with God, from opened skies above do Thou evermore descend upon all who are well-pleasing in the Father's eyes. May there be no baptism with water which Thy grace does not bless ; no meeting of Christian hearts according well where the burning fire and rushing wind is unfelt. May Jesus everywhere be so glorified that Thou canst freely come. May the preaching of the Gospel this day come unto us not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance, so that we may become examples to all that believe. Aid Thou our prayers. We know not what to pray for as we ought, but Thine intercession speaks the unutterable things, groaning with all the burden of desire and suffering love.

So ere this day has fled grant us a true Pentecost again, a Presence and a power that shall not be confined within these hallowed walls, but issue in blessing to the passers-by who throng our streets, till they demand to know what this thing means. Revive Thy work in the midst of the long, uneventful days, the unmarked years, until all shall own the Presence for all have felt the power.

# The Christian Year

## WHITSUNDAY

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Come upon us**, O Heavenly Spirit, and cleanse us thoroughly of all our sins, and open our hearts and minds to better things than those we have been cherishing, and to nobler ways of life than the paths in which we have been content to walk.

Come upon us, O Spirit of truth divine ; deliver us from all error and self-delusion, and guide us into the perfect liberty of the children of God.

Rest upon us, O Spirit of holy fear ; teach us to watch and pray, that we stumble not, nor fall into wilful sin.

Rest upon us, O Spirit of heavenly love ; and chase all unrighteous anger, all envy, jealousy, and discontent, all mean thoughts of others, and all smouldering envy, from our hearts.

We confess that we have avoided Thee, O Spirit of God, when Thou camest as a rushing wind to cleanse and brace our souls ; so that we have grown weak in well-doing, and our fidelity of righteous purpose has lost its vigour and fortitude. We have closed the windows of our heart against the dove of Thy Spirit, O God ; so that faith and hope and charity within us have lost touch with the tokens of Thy providences all about us, and have yielded to despair and selfishness.

Forgive us our sins and negligences, O Heavenly Spirit. Cease not Thy pleading with us ; but when our love grows cold and our prayer and faith are dumb, and we fall into the sleep of selfish care, break in once more upon the darkness and void ; waken and win us to Thy heavenly light, to know Thee as the Life of our deepest life, the Voice of our inmost conscience, the Strength of our surrendered will.

Almighty God, Whose Spirit is everywhere ready and employed in bringing to fulness a new heaven and a new earth : we entreat Thee that that blessed time may speedily come to pass, when the whole earth shall be restored in righteousness and peace, and all Thy children be numbered among Thine elect and made fruitful in brotherhood and in every good work and noble service.

## The Christian Year

Come as the Light, O Spirit of God, and open all darkened minds to the loveliness of Thy Truth. Take of the things of Christ and reveal them unto all people, that, as they behold Him Who was pierced for them, their hearts may go out to Him in adoring love and gratitude. And in this glorious enterprise bless the Church in all her labours ; and restore in amplest measure to our country her mission as a province of Thy Kingdom.

Come as fire upon all whose zeal for Thee has grown cold ; and as the dew upon all that are barren of love and kindly service, that the grace of sweet affections, and the fruits of holy living, may appear and abound in them. Be Thou as the dew to all dried and parched hearts, and all those whose hope for this life, and faith in the life to be, have drooped or withered away ; and from their infertile souls bring a blessed springtime of beauty and fruitfulness. Still let Thine unfailing promise be fulfilled to them ; leave them not comfortless ; abide with them for ever. And these our prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, in Whose words we further pray, *Our Father.*

# The Christian Year

## WHITSUNDAY

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Fountain of Truth and Grace**, Who visitest the world with times of refreshment from Thy presence, and so dividest Thy word as to kindle the fire of all hearts : come with Thy various energy into our midst ; whether as the rushing wind to cleanse and brace our souls, or as the hovering dove to quicken our faith, and hope, and charity. Cease not the pleadings of Thy Spirit, O Comforter Eternal ; but when our love grows cold and our prayer is dumb, and we fall into the sleep of selfish care, break in once more upon the darkness and the void ; waken and win us to Thy heavenly light, to know Thee as the Life of our deepest life, the Voice of our inmost conscience, the Strength of our surrendered will. Burn up with Thy purifying flame every root of bitterness and seed of sin ; and let the nourishing dews descend which shall cover every barren place with the grace of sweet affections and the fruits of holy living. Still let the blessed promise be fulfilled : leave us not comfortless, abide with us for ever.

Receive our confession and sorrow for our sin. How could the holy Dove dwell in our defiled hearts, how rest amid our jostling thoughts and thorny anxieties ? We have not sought the quiet where His white presence comes. We have not been still that we might be strong. We have not waited for the promise of the Father. We have not tarried in the holy place. In feverish bustle and faithless haste we have moved hither and thither as those who would raise the winds of God through the devices of men. But now the day is fully come. Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire. Give the anointing from the Holy One, that we shall need no teacher among men. And forsaking the idols of each vain desire, may we so sweep and garnish the temple of our spirit that the heavenly Guest may enter in and never more depart.

And to confession would we add intercession. Move within our cold hearts and sluggish wills and disordered affections, O Fire of Love, till we begin to pray with passion and with power



## The Christian Year

for all the sons of men. While there are souls unlit by Thy grace and hearts untenanted by Thy love, may we know no rest in our sacred office of King's remembrancers and priestly intercessors.

For all who have wandered away into far countries where the voices of conscience and truth are drowned in the blare of brazen sin, we pray. For all who have grown deaf to the whispers of faith and the songs of salvation. For those who have done despite unto the Spirit of Grace so often and so long that now they are afraid even to pray. For all who have become spoiled through philosophy and vain deceit and the oppositions of science falsely so called ; that they may learn that God cannot deny Himself, and that there is no truth which does not lead to adoration, and no worship which need fear the truth.

For all who are living their lives by faith in the Son of God Who loved them and gave Himself for them, that more and more they may have joy and peace in believing. For those whose religion is loveless and harsh and unwarmed by kindly human graces and patient forbearance ; that they may not choke the heavenly flame by their spiritual pride. For all who are prompt to obey the heavenly summonses, that they may have great gladness in their missions of mercy and salvation in this and in all the lands. For those who are groping in darkness, that they may not be denied the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Who in Thy wisdom hast so ordered our earthly life that we should walk by faith and not by sight : grant us such faith in Thee, that amidst all the things that pass our understanding, we may believe in Thy fatherly care, and be ever led and strengthened by the assurance that underneath are the Everlasting Arms, and that Thy mercy endureth for ever. This we ask through the Holy Spirit, believing that we shall receive.

# The Christian Year

## TRINITY SUNDAY

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty :** heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.

Blessed be Thine ineffable Name, O God of all, for the revelation of Thy being and character that came in plenitude of light upon the minds and hearts of Thy children on this earth, in Jesus Christ.

We stand in awe of Thee as we apprehend in Him the doctrine of Thy fatherly majesty and burning love ; for Thou art holy and mysterious, benevolent towards all Thy creatures, but ruthless to their sins, fatherly but awful in Thy judgments, just and terrible in Thy discipline in the earth.

We adore Thee as we know in our conference and communion with the mind and heart of Jesus Christ, that Thou hast ever been in travail to redeem mankind, and that in Him Who died on Calvary, Thou Thyself hast shared our every weakness and sorrow and sin, so that there is not a sin or sorrow anywhere in earth that comes not in the end to be borne by Thee.

And we rejoice before Thee to know by the prophecy of Jesus Christ, and the fulfilment of this promise, that even as a breath in all things, so dwellest Thou in every soul, wooing from waywardness and sin, inspiring to faith and courage, even as a dew upon a dry, parched land, a reviving fire, a refuge as of wings of brooding love and peace.

Blessed for evermore be Thy Name, O God, for the revelation of Thyself in Jesus Christ, Who was made unto us the Truth, and the Way, and the Life.

Help us to confess our faith in Thee, O God, Heavenly Father, by living as Thy dutiful children ; our faith in Thee, O God, Son of God, by trusting in Thy so great salvation and by arming ourselves with the mind that is in Thee ; and our surrender to Thee, O God, Spirit and Comforter, by our quick obedience to Thy inward light.

And unto Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be glory everlasting.

## TRINITY SUNDAY

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts**, which art, and wast, and art to come.

Almighty and everlasting God, Who hast granted to Thy servants, in the confession of the true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Majesty, to adore the Unity ; we beseech Thee, that, by the steadfastness of this faith, we may ever be defended from all things contrary to the same.

Sovereign Lord, Who dost rebuke our pride by leading us among mysteries which were not revealed of the will of man, nor can by man's unaided mind be understood, forbid that we should stand aside from holy adoration and grateful acknowledgment of the mysteries that pass our comprehension. Yet as we invoke the Name of the Blessed Trinity may it give enlightening awe and noble dignity to our worship.

Thou, O God, art our Father, the root and ground of all our being, in Whom stablished and settled we abide. By faith we understand that Thou hast created all things by the word of Thy sovereign power, whose greatness all acknowledge, whose behests all must obey.

Our Lord and Master, in Whose revealing wounds the doubts dissolved of him who was constrained to say, My Lord and my God ; we adore Thee for taking upon Thee our nature, and living close to us in human form to touch and handle, and yet to leave no doubt that they who had seen Thee had seen the Father.

Holy Spirit, Comforter and Enlightener, Whose gracious impulses within our hearts move us to the acknowledging that God has touched us ; unhindered be Thy motions in our minds, that led by Thee we may confess our faith in God by deeds more strong than words.

And unto Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, would we ascribe all honour, majesty, and praise, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

# Yearly Occasions

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

### *Call to Worship*

And He that sitteth on the throne said, Behold I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Ye have not passed this way before. Sanctify, therefore, the Lord God in your hearts. My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

As thy days, so shall thy strength be. My grace is sufficient for thee : for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Be strong and of a good courage ; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed : for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

The Lord is my Shepherd ; I shall not want. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ; and I will dwell in the House of the Lord for ever.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

*Invocation*

☉ **Thou** Who art from everlasting to everlasting, without beginning of days or end of years : replenish us with Thy heavenly grace at the opening of this new year, that we may be enabled to accept all its duties, to perform all its labours, to welcome all its mercies, to meet all its trials, and to advance through all it holds in store for us, with cheerful courage and a constant mind. O Lord, suffer us not to be separated from Thee either by joy or sorrow, or any sin or weakness of our own ; but have compassion upon us, and forgive us, and help us in the strong confidence of Thine eternal love in Jesus Christ; that as Thou hast called us to immortality through Him, so we may pass the residue of our years in the power of an endless life ; and to Thy Name shall be all the praise.

Almighty and everlasting God, by Whose mercy we come to the beginning of another year : regard us with Thy favour and further us with Thy continual help, as dutifully and with glad-some minds we dedicate to Thee the days that, in Thy mercy, lie before us. We would begin the year by the renewal of our covenant with Thee.

Assist us by Thy good Spirit to sing our pilgrim songs this day with sincerity and cheerfulness of heart. Speak to us of eternal things out of Thy holy Word. And grant that our meditation upon Thy Truth may profit us, to the quickening of our conscience towards the redress of all that has been amiss in our life in bygone days, and in replenishing us with encouragement and hope, as we face the opportunities of obedience and service Thou hast in store for us. And this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

### *Confession and Supplication*

**Almighty and everlasting God,** Who alone hast immortality, and with Whom a thousand years are as a day, we bow down before Thee with humble, hopeful and expectant hearts. Here, as upon Zion Thy holy hill, we would face the future with all its uncertainty, knowing that Thou art there for ever, a shadow from the heat of the day, and the radiance of a home and hearth in the darkest and coldest night.

We look back upon our pilgrim way and praise Thee, O God of our fathers, for Thy patience and the long-suffering of Thy grace. Many a time we turned aside from the straight and simple way in which Thou wouldst have us walk ; and by our own wilfulness we have added to the perplexity of our pilgrimage. Restore us this day to the highway of Thy will, for we repent of our wandering footsteps ; and give us a new start in life. Grant us absolution for all our past forgetfulness of Thee, and release us from the burden of transgressions which we carry from the old year into this bright and solemn day.

As we greet our friends near and afar with tokens of goodwill, in the season of loving recollection, forgive our neglect of them, and all wherein we have wounded them, and bring us nearer to one another in loving remembrance and helpfulness. Look upon those from whom we are estranged, and bestow upon us and them the spirit of reconciliation. Here and now, in this and in all our commerce with our fellows, and in our duty towards Thee and our citizenship within Thy Kingdom, create in us a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us.

Send forth Thy light and Thy truth. Let them guide us through all the coming days. Let Thy holy Spirit be the abiding usher of each new morning, so that we shall be daily sanctified anew to make a braver fight against our temptations, to offer Thee in all the business that awaits us a joyous and unblemished service, and to be less unworthy of our title as the fellow-workers of Thy will.

Heavenly Father, we know not what lies before us in the



obscurity of the time to be, whither our frail steps may be led, or whence shall issue upon us the trials and the joys of life. We yield ourselves in obedience and faith to Thee, knowing that, in so strong and victorious a covenant, it shall be well with us, whether our lot be to pass through desert places or to sojourn in green pastures and beside still waters.

O God of our salvation, Whose blessed and only-begotten Son was on this day named Jesus within Thy temple in Jerusalem, seal us anew within our very souls with that redeeming and all-prevailing Name; so that evermore the words of our mouth and our every deed, and all the movements of our hands and feet, shall touch the world about us with the music of His presence, and that even we may be such gentle and faithful evangelists of His radiant life that men may see our good works and glorify Thee our Father in heaven.

O satisfy us early with Thy mercy that we may rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. Establish Thou the works of our hands upon us ; and make our life beautiful in Thee : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

#### *Thanksgiving and Supplication*

**Eternal God,** Who of old hast laid the foundation of the earth, and Whose Word is for ever settled in the heavens ; whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and rises anew in the beginning of another year : Give us grace to awake and to rise into Christ Thy Son, Who is our morning Light. And grant that in all the years of our pilgrimage, walking by faith in Him, we may put on strength, and may be enabled to endure in the way of life with joy unto the end ; through Him Who came a wayfarer with us in the earth, our Saviour : to whom, with the Father and the Spirit, one God, be glory through eternal ages.

O loving Father, Thou Guard and Guide of all Thy people, Who hast in Thy great mercy brought us to make our prayer once again within Thy house at the beginning of another year, we are all monuments of Thy patience and evidences of Thy love. Having obtained help of God, we continue unto this day. Our eyes have seen all the great acts of the Lord which He did. We are not yet come to the rest and to the inheritance which the Lord our God giveth us. But we are on our pilgrim way, and gladly rest beneath the Rock of ages to raise our pilgrim song.

Pilgrims we are, as all our fathers were. Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. In Thy mercy alone do we confide. Thou art He Who knowest no variableness, the only sure and unchanging reality in all this world of chance and change. Thou hast brought us all this way from our mother's arms, and art still our refuge and our exceeding great reward. Never a night has been dark and starless but Thou Thyself hast stood as sentinel about our beleaguered camp. Never a morn of hope has broken, but Thou hast put in our mouth the new song. Never has come a call to strike our tents and take the road, but Thou hast gone before our marching host.

Replenish the springs of faith within us this day. Make us to hear the marching of the deathless army of those who with

their Leader have conquered in the fight, that our hearts may be brave again and our arms strong. Restore unto every one of us the years which the locust hath eaten, and give us the heartening assurance that Thou wilt yet do us more good at our latter end than at our beginning.

If the coming days be marked for joy and gladness, let us salute their coming with shining face, welcoming such grace as an opportunity for showing forth the praises of Him Who has blest us all our days. If sorrow stoop upon our path, leave us not so lone and forlorn that we shall not have a song in the night. Enable us to glorify Thee in the fires. If failure should be our portion, and cherished hopes should come to no fruition, may we never doubt Thy guiding hand. If success should come to us in any of our lawful occasions and just enterprises may we never be separated from Thee thereby, but be given grace to carry a full cup with steady hand and grateful heart.

So may this year be to every one of us the beginning of days, a year of the Lord ; and as we multiply our days upon earth so may we increase in the stature of the perfect man. And these things we ask in His Name Who glorified Thee on the earth and finished the work which Thou gavest Him to do.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

### *Confession and Intercession*

**Lord of the Vineyard,** Who hast answered on our behalf the plea, Let it alone this year also, we would make at this time humble confession of our need of Thy patience and forbearance. Alas, how soiled the record of the year which has gone, how short-lived its vows of amendment of life. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquity, who should stand? But with Thee there is forgiveness, that Thou mayest be feared.

We have forfeited the blessedness that once we knew when first we saw the Lord, for we have not kept tryst with the Lover of our souls. We have been careful and troubled about many things, and have neglected those things which make for peace of conscience, and clearness of vision, and the hope that maketh not ashamed. We have suffered them to take away our Lord, and we know not where they have laid Him. We have not sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and wonder why the blessings and benefits that flow therefrom have not been added unto us. Have mercy upon us, and be patient with us yet awhile.

We pray that we may all enter this new year under a chastening sense of our failure to achieve the plans which in our pride we promised to fulfil. We were growing so wise in our own conceits. We were uplifted with pride at our conquests in the realms of earth and sea and air. Was not this great Babylon which we had builded! And in one hour so great riches was brought to nought; and we woke to find our vaunted civilization lying in ruins around us. And now in these days when we hear of wars and rumours of war, when men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for expectation of the things that are coming on the earth, may we lift up our heads only because our salvation draweth nigh through Christ our King. And when they cry, Lo, here! Lo, there! and the love of many waxeth cold, and the very elect are well-nigh deceived, may we walk circumspectly, redeeming the time, for the days are evil.

Guide Thou Thy Church, O Lord, in these latter days,

## Yearly Occasions

that when the Son of Man cometh He may find faith upon the earth, and watchful servants who look for their Lord's appearing. Give a deep sense of responsibility to all who mould the thought of the time by speech or writing, and to all upon whom Thou hast bestowed power and position of whatever kind. Increase the sense of stewardship in all to whom Thou hast entrusted aught of this world's goods ; and impress us all with the shortness of the time, that we may use this world as not using it to the full ; for the fashion of this world passeth away, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Receive, O Lord of Hosts, these our prayers, and hear us while we say, *Our Father*.

# Yearly Occasions

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

### *Thanksgiving and Intercession.*

○ **Thou**, Who hast been our dwelling-place in all generations, we praise Thee for every token of Thy love and favour towards us throughout the year that lies behind us.

Blessed be Thou for that bountiful care whereby our bodies have been endowed with strength, our minds with wisdom, and our souls with all-sufficient grace. For Thy restoration of us in times of sickness or adversity, for all prosperity and success awarded us, for the enrichment of our homes by new loves and hopes, and by old joys and comforts made more tender and more beautiful with the mellowing years, we praise Thee, O Thou God of Bethel.

We thank Thee, too, for every inspiration afforded us by the beauty and glory of the sky, the earth, and the sea, by the revelation of truth in thoughtful minds, by the ennobling ministry of art, and the power of music, and by contact with brave and gentle men and women who came our way, and who, even in casual meetings, renewed in us a sense of the nearness of angelic presences.

We thank Thee, too, for that opening of a heavenly door which this sanctuary has been to us from week to week, for light that broke upon us from the blessed Scriptures, for the repeated message of Thy Son's power to save us and His unfailing presence with us, and for the awe and graciousness of His intimacy with us at His holy Table.

Most loving Father, Thou knowest how often disappointments have been our portion in the days that are gone ; behold, there lie open to Thee here the hearts that well-nigh broke and the homes that were visited with disaster. Nevertheless, we would seek to bless Thee for all Thy providences, however mysterious they have been to our wondering and affrighted vision. And we pray Thee to increase within us that faith whereby alone we can be lifted up to walk bravely and steadfastly in the path of Him Whose faith gave Him victory upon the Cross. Draw our eyes to that Tree of



strength and healing, and fortify our wavering belief that in spite of woes as deep as death, and darkness as of the pit, Thy love is round the whole horizon of our life, Thine everlasting arms beneath us, and that all things work together for good to them that love and put their trust in Thee.

Almighty God Who hast said, Behold I make all things new, grant that, in this new year, the coming in fulness of Thy kingdom in the earth may be gloriously advanced. Renew with pentecostal zeal and ardour the whole Church of Christ, that among the peoples that have known the evangel of Thy Son they may serve Thee not with their lips only, but with hearts and hands that move in all things in obedience to Thy will, and that all whose eyes have not yet seen the dread warning in Thy Son's Cross, and its pleading invitation of salvation to the uttermost, may behold the majesty and tenderness of Thy redeeming love. Grant, O God, that by the power of Thy prevailing Spirit in the labours of all that love and serve Thee, the world may be delivered from the narrowing lust of gold, from all false pride, all civic spite and slanders, all evils that the vile count profitable, all feuds of rich and poor, all that makes for war, and inspire among us the love of truth and right, the larger heart, the kindlier hand, and all those nobler modes of life that are inspired by Him Who judges the world from His Tree, even Jesus Christ Thy Son, Whose kingdom shall be a never-ending Kingdom. *Our Father.*

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

**Most bountiful God**, Whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, we draw near to Thee in this time of Harvest, to render unto Thee our offering of gratitude and praise.

We bless Thee for the glory of all Thy works ; for the constancy of Thy laws ; for the beauty of the changing seasons ; and for all the tokens this earth displays of Thy love and care of all Thy creatures.

We praise Thee for this season wherein Thou providest for the bodily wants of man ; for the increase of the field and the fruits of trees. And we glorify Thee for Thy promise that while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest shall not cease.

Heavenly Father, in those Thy providences that are strange to us, wherein Thy bounty seems to be withholden from us, and much and faithful labour looks to have been in vain, encourage us by faith to believe that the mystery by which, even in Thy manifest mercies, we are compassed about, is a mystery of Infinite Goodness, and that Thou hast a purpose of love in all denials of our hope and expectation.

Make Thy goodness health and strength unto us, that we may be dutiful and holy. Help us to show forth our gratitude for all Thy gifts by a right use of them. Give us grace that we may never forget our abiding dependence upon Thee ; and, remembering Thy goodness to us, may we cheerfully minister to others, to the relief of the poor, the needy, and the afflicted, and to the maintenance and advancement of Thy Church and Kingdom to the glory of Thy holy Name.

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

☉ **Thou** Who openest Thy hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing, we come before Thee this day as they who joy in the harvest. Spring and summer, seed-time and harvest, they have never failed us. Great is Thy faithfulness. In flowers, and fruit, and ears of corn ; in fish from the sea and coal from the mine, Thou hast fed and warmed and cheered us, and made us glad. Most right, therefore, it is that this House of God, solemn with memories of worship, should be linked in our thoughts to-day with field and garden and orchard-close.

Teach us by these gifts of Thine, O bountiful Giver, our constant dependence upon Thy loving care ; that we may never grow careless or forgetful of Thee. Teach us through their garnering and husbanding that Thou hast called us with a high calling to be fellow-labourers with Thyself ; that all work may grow noble in our eyes, and every honest workman have praise. Teach us by their transience to labour not alone for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto us.

Father of all, in Whose house there is bread enough and to spare, give wisdom unto those who direct the affairs of the commonwealth, that none shall gather too little of Thy free gifts, and none shall have any over that he cannot use for Thy glory and the well-being of others. Give understanding unto our statesmen, that in years of plenty they may lay up store for the lean years. Give us just employers of labour, honest and conscientious workers, and the right to enjoy the fruits of the earth that comes from faithful toil. May we all have the grace which knows how to drop handfuls on purpose for the needy gleaners to pick up. And of Thy great goodness do Thou bring us all at last to the joy of the great harvest home, when, although now we may sow in tears, yet then we shall come in, bringing our sheaves with us.

### THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

**F**or the Mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed ; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.

Eternal Father, Who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, Whose throne is established in righteousness, whose compassions fail not, and whose love endureth unto all generations ; lift the light of Thy countenance upon us, pilgrims as all our fathers were, that thanking Thee for all the way by which Thou hast led us, we may as Thy children set our faces toward eternity and our affection on things above, ere we pass hence and are seen no more.

We remember before Thee, in penitence and humility of spirit, the blessings which we have received with too little gratitude, and have kept with too little care ; the difficulties and trials in which courage has deserted us, and our faith has failed ; the opportunities we have neglected, which come not back again. And we remember also with infinite thankfulness all that has enriched and ennobled our lives, the good gifts we have been permitted to treasure up, the dear friendships which have blessed our days, the lasting gains of knowledge and wisdom, the higher aims and worthier pleasures which are ours.

In these fast fleeting moments of the dying year let us not weaken our souls with vain regrets and idle musings, with self-pity or resentment, but rather, believing that all things work together for good to them that love Thee, let us humbly seek to learn Thy will, and be made strong to fulfil it, sure that in the doing of Thy will alone shall we find rest unto our souls. Almighty and most merciful Father, in whose appointment our life standeth, and Who hast mercifully brought us to see the close of yet another year ; grant that we may continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Thy dear Son. Increase our faith as Thou dost add to our years, and the longer we are suffered to abide upon earth, the better may our service be.

### THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

**Almighty God**, Who art the source of all Time and the abode of Eternity : Thou hast made us creatures of time to the end that when time is over we may attain to Thy blessed eternity. We repair to Thee, in the shelter of Thy wings of love and mercy, in these closing hours of another year.

We are humbled by the remembrance of our past unworthiness, we are oppressed with the knowledge of our failures, and weak with the sense of our poor endeavours, and of the frailty of human life. We have so often been unthankful for Thy mercies, mistrustful of Thy promises, and unfaithful to Thy commandments. O Thou Who seest in very truth, look mercifully upon us. Minister the healing balm of Thy love to our hearts, and ransom us from the shame of our many falls. Encourage our fainting spirits, and restore us to purity and peace.

Most loving God, we remember at this time Thy goodness unto us throughout the year that is closing. For opportunities afforded us by Thee, which we have been enabled to use ; and for those which through our foolishness we neglected, we thank Thee, O our God. For all truth that has been revealed to us ; for every inspiration towards a better life, more faithful labour, and fuller service ; for the fellowship of Thy Church and for the living Bread Thy Son has been to us in the blessed Sacrament ; we bless Thy Name, O Lord. For trials that purified and strengthened us ; for sorrows that lifted our thoughts to Thee ; for chastenings that worked in us the peaceable fruit of righteousness, we praise Thee, God of all comfort and grace.

And now we beseech Thee that the coming year may be to us a year of grace and salvation. Sow in our hearts anew the fear of Thy Name and the love of Thy Truth. Deliver us from vain hopes and repinings, and unite us in fellowship with Thee, Who art the same to-day, yesterday, and for ever.

# Yearly Occasions

## WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE

**Arise**, cry out in the night : in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord : lift up thy hands toward Him.

Thou shalt keep the watch of the house of the Lord.

I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in Thy word. Mine eyes prevented the night watches, that I might meditate in Thy word.

Could ye not watch with Me one hour ?

What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober.

PRAISE

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

### *Prayer*

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. To-night we shelter beneath the covert of Thy love. Pilgrims, another stage nearer Home, we would rest awhile beneath the shadow of the Rock of Ages. We beseech Thee, O Lord, of Thy great goodness, to grant unto us the heavenly vision ; that we may behold not only the things of sense in their turmoil and transience, but also the things that endure in their rest and everlastingness. Grant us the sweet peace of the eternal years.

Almighty Father, as we keep holy time under the deepening shadows of the closing year, we thank Thee for all that it has brought to us of mercy and truth. Receive our sorrow for our sins, and in Thine infinite mercy blot them out of the book of Thy remembrance. Let not the experience of our past days be lost upon us. Fix in our minds every lesson of faith and duty which Thou hast been teaching us. Take from our hearts every veil that would hide the shining of the heavenly light. Grant unto us, before the record of this year has been finished and sealed, a fresh consecration, a very honest and deep desire to live according to Thy will, as it has been made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Yearly Occasions

Deliver us in Thy mercy from our fears and forebodings. Enable us to be quietly sure that the future is Christ's, as the past has been His. We remember what He has been to us, how His love has gone every step of the journey beside us, and upheld us in many a trying day. And we recall all that the year has held for us—the brave and the good who have gone from us, the beauty that has faded, the joys that have died. Old friends have passed away, and new friends have come into our life. As we say good-bye to the year that is going from us, lift up our hearts in hope and trust towards Thee, sorrowing not for what the dead days took from us, fearing not what the days unknown may bring, but following Thy light, and rejoicing in Thy promises that fail not, and in Thy love that cannot die. Lead us, O Lord, through whatsoever paths Thou choosest, safely to where Thou art and our beloved await us.

Remember for good all those dear to us whom now we bring before Thee at this midnight hour in the House of God. . . . Be with them where they are, in this or in other lands—in this, or in Thine other world. Shield all who may be in danger, guide any who are in perplexity, comfort all who mourn, and lay Thy hand on any wanderer from the path of peace. Be specially gracious, we beseech Thee, to any to whom the past year has brought disappointment : do Thou appoint some better thing for them. And help us all to tarry the Lord's leisure.

O Lord, hear ; O Lord, forgive. Jesus of Nazareth, Thou Christ of God, in Thee have we trusted : let us never be confounded. O Lord, hear our prayer which we make in the night season, and hearken unto our cry.

PRAISE

ADDRESS

PRAISE

### *Fellowship of Silence*

*The passage from the Old Year to the New may most fitly be made in a Fellowship of Silence. At the beginning of the Silence the lights should be subdued, their reappearance marking the advent of the New Year.*

## Nearly Occasions

### *Prayer at the beginning of the Silence*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord ; and as Thou dost pilot us over the bar of another year, so by Thy great mercy do Thou be with us when at last we cross from the sands of time to the haven of Thy eternity.

### *Prayer at the Advent of the New Year*

#### *Our Father.*

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help ; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life.

Grant us, O Father, if it be Thy blessed will, a happy New Year ; as we have begun it in Thy presence, so may we end it in Thy peace : and when our little span of mortal days is over, grant unto Thy servants rest and re-union for evermore in the Paradise of God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost ; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### *After Prayer*

As thy days, so shall thy strength be. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Let not your heart be troubled : trust God, and trust Me.

Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord, Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. The Lord bless thee out of Zion : even He that made heaven and earth.

At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns unto God: and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's bands were loosed.

PRAISE

THE BLESSING

### KENTIGERN

**Almighty God,** Who makest the wrath of man to praise Thee, and out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast founded strength, that Thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger, we praise Thy Name this day for Thine excellent grace manifested in Thy servant Kentigern of Glaschu, which dwelt first in his mother Thenew, who confessed herself the handmaid of Christ and remained all night alone with Him in the great waters.

We thank Thee for his care for the little things of the woodland, and for that sweet human affection which he ever awoke in the hearts of men, so that they were constrained to call him Mungo. We praise Thee for lamps that he lit from Scotland to Wales ; for the charm of his person, his humour, and the whiteness of his linen. We thank Thee for his severity with himself and his tenderness with others. For the church which he built by the mill-stream, so that the richest harvest which the Molendinar ever helped to garner and to grind was the grist that Mungo brought to the mills of God.

And we humbly pray that still Mungo's work may be never done, but that the remembrance of his life and labours may inspire not only his Dear Family of Glaschu in the west, but all good Christian men and women everywhere to abound in every good word and work, forasmuch as they know that their labour is not in vain in the Lord.

# National Saints Days

## DAVID

© **LORD GOD**, King of Saints, we call to remembrance upon this day of his passing from many and glorious labours in earth to his crown in heaven, Thy servant David of Wales. We praise Thee for that preparation of his radiant ministry among our tribes in olden time, which was accomplished in Jerusalem and in the divers schools and sanctuaries whereto he wended in his youth. We praise Thee for the inspiration of Thy Word in his heart and mouth, by which he proclaimed Thy truth and salvation in great assemblies of his countrymen, and revealed to them those holy hills whence came their help. We praise Thee for the multitude of churches to which his zeal gave birth, and for the wise counsel men from afar found there as they learned from him the arts of Christ's most blessed warfare. We praise Thee for his love of homely things, the music of brave and simple songs, the flowers and offspring of cottage gardens, and that common root he set in the helmets of them that fought against the heathen hosts.

And we entreat Thee to keep alive within this and all kindred peoples the spirit with which his life shone and his memory is fragrant still. Exalt Thy Church in courage and humility as upon the hill that was made a pulpit for Thy servant. Wing our faltering and earth-bound wills with the meek and adventurous zeal that came upon him as a dove from heaven. And, as he found in Zion's city the vision of what his native land should be, even so grant a like vision unto us that Jerusalem may be builded anew in this green and pleasant land.

## PATRICK

**Almighty God.** Who over-rulest the deeds of evil men and causest their devices to work for the advancement of Thy Kingdom in the earth : we praise Thee this day for Thy servant Patrick who in exile and slavery came to himself, and, as he ranged the woods of Connaught in great distraction found shelter and peace at the Tree of Christ's Cross. We praise Thee that in his escape and in safety at home he heard the voice that called him back to Erin, and obeyed the call. Blessed be Thy Name, O Thou King of Saints, for the glory of his labours in the isle that through Thy furtherance of his toils and prayers became that very Isle of Saints whence a lamp went forth in after days to illuminate and retrieve the nations of the West. We praise Thee for his love of song and the harmony of heavenly music he inspired among the bards of Erin.

We entreat Thee, most gracious God, to renew to-day among the children of his soul and among all people, his bright and fervent devotion to the simplicity of Christ's Word and way, whereby he banished all pagan beliefs and superstitions that continue to creep like serpents in many hearts. And we beseech Thee that the courage and might that filled Thy servant when he cast to earth the dreadful Idol of the Sun may prevail in us, to the end that we may worship Thee only, and in all things see and direct our path by the light of Him Who by His Word hath delivered us from ignorance, and by His glorious Death and Resurrection redeemed us from the darkness of sin and perdition. Hear us in this our prayer for the sake of Him Who is the very Sun of righteousness, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

# National Saints Days

## GEORGE

**Great Captain** of our salvation, Who hast called us all to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, we lift up our voice aloud this day in praise to Thee for George and Merry England. We thank Thee for the banner of the Cross which he raised high, and that his name is like a peal of bells which call to pray. We rejoice in the freshness of the faith which ever blossoms anew in the hearts of men, like the breath of spring flowers ; in the exultant confidence which labours and fights and prays ; for this garden of a land which smiles as if the eyes of God were ever upon it, this nurse of purposeful men and wholesome women. And we pray that evermore Thou wilt keep alive in our midst that chivalry which rides abroad redressing human wrongs, and that this dear land may be delivered from all the brood of the marauding dragon.

O Lord our God, Who hast given us grace to mark the signs of holiness in Thy saints, and to desire for our protection the shield of their spirit, enable us to follow in all godly living those whose virtues we admire, that while we honour their names we may emulate their example, that so Thou mayest have praise in Thy servants who are called by Thy name.



## COLUMBA

**Lord God Almighty**, Who art admired in Thy saints and magnified in the lives of Thy faithful ; we praise Thy Name for the virtues and excellencies which dwelt in Thy servant Columba, so that his very name has been as a burning and a shining lamp throughout the long years. We praise Thee that his passion was purified into strength and his wilfulness into steadfast purpose. We remember with thankfulness the kindly human traits which endeared him to the people amongst whom he preached the Gospel ; his care for all Thy creatures ; his tenderness, and love of the hills of home. We rejoice to be followers of the pure religion which he practised, and heirs of his tradition of austere simplicities. Grant unto us in our day and generation that we may so walk with Thee in all pleasing, that prayer shall be for us also the quiet, confident communing of a man with his Friend.

We thank Thee for the fragrance which still lingers about the scenes which his life and labours blessed : that the isle of his heart is still a sanctuary where piety grows warmer and memory melts into prayer. And we humbly entreat that the vision which was granted unto him may be accomplished in our time, and his prophecy find fulfilment ; and that our united remembrance of the mission of this Dove of the Churches may increase our zeal for peace everywhere and our determination to pursue it.

# National Saints Days

## MARGARET

The lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places : yea, we have a goodly heritage.

We give Thee thanks, our God, for our heritage as the people of Scotland : for the land of our fathers, the land we love, for the races we represent, Celtic and Scottish, and for the peculiar gifts and contribution of each to the whole ; for the story of Scotland, so deeply written upon our minds and hearts ; for our fathers, the men of Scotland, for their fear of God, their patriotism, their battles for freedom, their simplicity and austerity of life ; for our mothers, the women of Scotland, silent, tender, strong, who made the men.

In especial on this day we would thank Thee for the Christian graces which flowered in Thy servant, Margaret ; for the deep wells of piety which fed her spiritual life ; for her love for Thy Church ; for her care for the needy and the distressed ; for the force of her example which bowed strong men to the service of the Christ. We praise Thy Name that she used the influence of her high position and queenly rank to promote and protect all manner of godliness in the land, and that she coveted most earnestly the Pearl of great price.

Continue Thy goodness to the land she loved, the land of her labours, her hopes, her prayers. Unite Thy servants evermore not only in one undivided Church, but in that union which binds us all to Thyself, that holy covenant which is ordered in all things, and sure, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ANDREW

**Almighty God,** Who didst give such grace unto Thine apostle Andrew, that, hearing the call of Jesus by the Galilean sea, he left his fishing-nets to seek the souls of men, we pray that unto us who have taken him for our pattern and example of godly zeal and holy living there may be given a like alacrity of spirit, that we may arise and follow where Christ leads.

We thank Thee that his zeal, his faith, his love, his charity which began at home laid the foundation of the Christian Church. We thank Thee that he was willing to take a lower place than the brother whom he had brought to Thee. We praise Thee for his prompt help and practical service when others were anxious, sceptical, and calculating ; for the ready sympathy and understanding spirit which enabled him to bring men of another race to the feet of his Lord ; for the grace which prompted him to seek in private the solution of his doubts, nor suffered him to parade his questionings openly.

To such honesty of mind and openness of heart may we ever strive to attain. Whatever be the form of cross we are called upon to bear, grant unto us a steadfast courage which no tribulation can subdue. And although we be not asked to seal our testimony in a martyr's death, may it ever be apparent in a Christian life, to the glory of our Lord and Saviour.

# National Saints Days

## ALL SAINTS DAY

☉ **Thou King of Saints**, Who art glorified at all times by the song of Thy saints in the heavenly places : we praise Thee this day with great joy for all those Thy servants, who in their service of Thee in times past were as beacons and standards of Thy truth and love in the earth. We bless Thee for all who by Thy light in their faces, Thy word on their lips, Thy holy love in their hearts, were as stars in the darkness of this world, and led many unto the marvellous light of Thy redemption in Christ, and of Thy Kingdom. And we magnify Thy Name for those who sealed their testimony by the blood of martyrdom, and for all whom we and other peoples reverence as the true founders of their commonwealths and cities.

We praise Thee for that great multitude of saints whose names have grown dim among us, but whose toils and the fragrance of whose service have helped to build us up in faith and liberty, and abide with us as the undetected inspiration of our life.

And, furthermore, we rejoice to give Thee thanks for those who in the time of their earthly life were unadorned by the titles and dignities bestowed on saints, but who were as dear to Thee as those applauded among men, and in obscure and humble ways were the salt of their day and generation, and so lived and toiled and died that life was made brighter for all about them and death was robbed of its fear.

Grant us grace, O Lord, to cherish evermore the heritage that is ours through the might and meekness of all Saints, and inspire us so to follow their bright examples that we may not only hold this our inheritance as a sacred and precious trust, but leave it with increase to those who shall come after us : through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ALL SAINTS DAY

**Almighty God**, with Whom do live the spirits of those whom Thou hast taken to be with Thyself ; Thou King of Saints, who redeemest the souls of Thy servants : we bless Thee for all the dead who have died in the Lord, and who have now received the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls. Keep alive in us the memory of those dear to ourselves whom Thou hast called out of this world, and make it powerful to subdue within us every unworthy thought. Grant that every remembrance which turns our hearts from things temporal to things unseen and eternal may lead us always upwards to Thee, till we too come to that everlasting rest which Thou hast prepared for Thy people : through Jesus Christ our Lord, Whom Thou didst raise from the dead that we might live through Him.

O Almighty God, Who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Thy Son Christ our Lord : Grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which Thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love Thee ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# National Saints Days

## COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Nov. 2\*

*After the officiating minister has taken his place, there may be played upon the organ Schubert's Litanei : "Ruh'n in Frieden, alle Seelen."*

**There shall be silence** before Thee, and praise, O God, in Zion : and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. . . . *Silence.* . . . The Lord redeemeth the souls of His servants : and none of them that trust in Him shall be held guilty. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth : my flesh also shall rest in hope. For Thou wilt not leave my soul in nether darkness ; neither wilt Thou suffer Thy beloved to see the pit. Thou wilt show me the path of life : in Thy presence is fulness of joy ; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.

*Let us pray.*

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice : let Thine ear be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand ? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.

O loving God, Who hast called back the first man unto eternal glory ; O Good Shepherd, Who didst bring back the lost sheep on Thy kind shoulders to the sheepfold ; O just Judge, when Thou shalt come to judgment, deliver from death the souls of those whom Thou hast redeemed ; and to those upon whom Thou hast bestowed the merit of the Christian faith, do Thou also grant its reward.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all faithful people, grant unto the souls of all the faithful departed the pardon for which they have ever longed. Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*or Armistice Day (Nov. 11).



## National Saints Days

PRAISE.

READ 2 Esdras ii. 34-48, or other Holy Scripture.

*Let us pray.*

Father, we thank Thee for the faithful souls that have blessed the world, whose lives shine as the light ; holy ones who have feared God, who have bravely upheld the right, and generously lived for others' good ; who have freely chosen suffering rather than sin, and acknowledged Thy favour to be better than life. O may their pure and noble lives animate and quicken our hearts, and in our souls may there burn a desire like them to become true children of God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To Thee the everlasting Father, before Whom stand the spirits of the living and the dead, we offer hearty thanks for all fair and noble memories, for all who have witnessed a good confession for the faith, for all the unknown departed whose forgotten labours have made earth better for their presence : humbly beseeching Thee that we may live worthily as becometh those who are bought with a great price : that being sanctified by their influence through all our earthly days, we may greet them in the land of the living with faces unashamed and souls exultant in the God of our salvation.

O Holy Lover of All Souls, before Whom stand the spirits of the living and of the departed, to Thee, as to the faithful Creator and most merciful Saviour, we commend those Thy servants who gave their life for us in battle, praising Thee for their fortitude, and humbly beseeching Thee to vouchsafe them to know that their suffering and sacrifice have not been in vain. Do Thou grant them peace in the ample fold of Thy love, where the light of Thy countenance rests upon them, where all tears are wiped away and there is no more pain. Have mercy upon those here upon earth who in great grief of spirit and sorrow of heart are seeking to hold fellowship with their beloved who have passed from this mortal life. Grant unto all such that they may know Him Who has the keys of death and of hell, the only Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus, ever touched with the feeling of our infirmities, who is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

## National Saints Days

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, LOVER OF OUR SOULS, WHO HAST PASSED WITHIN THE VEIL TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR ALL WHO LOVE THEE, GIVE TO OUR BELOVED WHO ARE WITH THEE THIS MESSAGE OF LOVE WHICH NOW WE BREATHE TO THEE IN THE SILENCE. . . . *Silence.* . . . AND MERCIFULLY GRANT UNTO US TO KNOW THAT THEY REMEMBER AND INTERCEDE FOR US, WAITING IN PATIENCE FOR THE RAPTURE OF THAT MOMENT WHEN WE SHALL HOLD THEM AGAIN. And with God be the rest. Through our adorable Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE ADDRESS.

*Let us pray.*

Everlasting Father, Who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, once more we commend our souls and the souls of all our brethren everywhere to Thy keeping. In Thy merciful and faithful care are the souls of the living and the departed ; and all are safe with Thee, and safe for ever. Sustain and comfort with these holy trusts and hopes every doubting and every sorrowing heart. And take these souls of ours which Thou hast made for Thyself, and restore them again for Thy Name's sake. We give Thee back Thine own. Help their weakness ; enlighten their darkness ; keep them in the knowledge and love of Thee ; let them grow in Thy grace and in the beauty of holiness.

*Our Father.*

PRAISE.

THE BLESSING.

# Silence in Public Prayer

## SILENCE IN PUBLIC PRAYER

*The Scriptures, in divers places, both exhort and encourage us to be silent betimes in the presence of God. And there is much spiritual profit to be had in this devout practice, not only in private prayer, but also in the exercises of public worship. All know this in that silent pause which is customarily introduced in the Intercessory Prayer with some such words as these : Whom we name in our hearts before Thee. In other prayers, however, a like silence may be made use of, as, for example, in the prayer of Invocation and also in that of Confession. In these instances it will be found helpful to prolong the silence for a minute or for not less than half a minute.*

*Hereunder are given forms of suitable phrases whereby the Silence in Invocation and in Confession may be introduced and concluded. In each case, the preceding portion of the Invocation or Confession should be shorter and less detailed than usual.*

### *Silence in the Invocation*

There shall be silence before Thee, and praise, O God, in Zion : and unto Thee shall the vow be performed. . . . *Silence.*

. . . O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me : as for our transgressions, Thou shalt purge them away. Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts : we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, the holy place of Thy temple. Thou art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea, O God of our salvation. Amen.

. . . O Lord, Who by Thy Word hast exhorted us to be still and know that Thou art God, dispose our souls in awe and adoration, as in silence for a space, we re-collect ourselves and face the ineffable majesty of Thy glory and Thy love. . . . *Silence.* . . . Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

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. . . O Lord Jesus Christ, at whose opening of the seven seals there was silence in heaven : in silence we wait upon Thee, that Thou mayest assist us to open our hearts to Thee and receive the blessing that is given those who are met together in Thy Name to worship God the Father. . . . *Silence.* . . . Worthy art Thou, O Christ, for Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us by Thy blood, and hast made us kings and priests unto God, to Whom be glory everlasting. Amen.

. . . Almighty God, of Whose majesty the Scripture saith, The Lord is in His holy temple ; let all the earth keep silence before Him : fill our hearts with holy fear and child-like expectation of Thy love and grace in Jesus Christ, Thy Son, as now we continue in prayer and abide in silence for a time before Thee. . . . *Silence.* . . . Glory be to Thee, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

. . . Eternal God, Who dwellest in light inaccessible and full of glory, it is right and meet that all flesh should be silent before Thee, for Thou comest forth out of Thy holy habitation. In silence now we bow before Thee, entreating Thee to fulfil Thy promise unto us, that wherever there be an humble and contrite heart, there also dwellest Thou. . . . *Silence.* . . . Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honour and the power ; for Thou didst create all things, and Thou hast redeemed us by the blood of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Saviour. Amen.

### *Silence in the Confession*

. . . Hear us, O God most merciful, in this our Confession, and, as we abide in silence before Thee, deliver us indeed from such sins as in our individual consciences we now recall and deplore. . . . *Silence.* . . . [*Then follows the Supplication, or the Intercession.*]

. . . O God, Who art our rock and high tower : grant unto us that, as we now abide before Thee in silence, we may know that Thy salvation is come upon our souls. . . . *Silence.* . . . [*Then follows the Supplication, or the Intercession.*]

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. . . O Thou Whose servant in his psalm exhorteth us, saying, Be silent in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him ; we would now in silence consider all our unworthiness and sin, and so wait upon Thee in true repentance and aspiration that we may hear Thy word of absolution and peace. . . . *Silence.* . . . [*Then follows the Supplication, or the Intercession.*]

. . . Most merciful Father, we repent of our sin and implore Thy forgiveness. By the gracious influence of Thy Spirit, bestow upon us the assurance of Thy mercy and love, as now we remain silent for a space in Thy holy and fatherly presence. But be not Thou silent unto us, lest, if Thou be silent, we become like them that droop down to death. . . . *Silence.* . . . [*Then follows the Supplication, or the Intercession.*]

## MS. Prayers





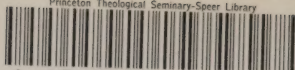
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